Corona is whistle-blower

Vizconde: CJ warned me Carpio pro-Webb

By Cathy Yamsuan and Hilda Dizon

NO LESS THAN Chief Justice Renato Corona warned Lauro Vizconde that Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio had approached fellow justices to vote for Hubert Webb's acquittal three months before the decision was released in December last year.

Vizconde made the revelation in the hearing yesterday after acknowledging that he was piqued by portions of the tribunal's en banc resolution admonishing him for his accusation against Chavez and for publicly accusing the justices of issuing the decision for a fee.

While Vizconde has a witness to support his claim, Corona yesterday denied blowing the whistle on Carpio. (See story on Page A8.)

Webb and company were sentenced to life for the 1991 murder of Vizconde's wife Estrellita and their daughters Anna Liza, 7, and Carmela, 10, who was raped before being stabbed to death.

Right after the acquittal of Webb and six others was announced, a highly emotional Vizconde accused the Jus-

CORONA, A4

Corona subsequently denies Vizconde statement / Page A9

Baguio IT studes teach computers to speak Ilocano

By Elmer Brioian Dizoion
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Information technology (IT) students here are teaching computers to speak Ilocano and Filipino to introduce local languages to the English-speaking computer world.

Senior computer science students of Saint Louis University (SLU) presented software translating software, called Sibak, at the Fourth Information and Communi-

BAGUIO, A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

BULLSEYE SPOT Residents of Ikoto, Sarangani, point to rest in Mt. Bolocan (gray arch [silhouette]) into the city on Monday in what eyewitnesses describe as a phreatic explosion. Volcanologists warned of more dense explosions in the next days and put the alert level at No. 1. (See story in Across the Nation, Page A17.)

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS / A6
Heidi Mendoza: Me, a saint? I'm a witch to the max

WORLD / A25
China meets calls for protests with show of force

SPORTS / A21
West thwarts East; Bryant nails 4th MVP

BUSINESS / B1
Groups back Tetangco reappointment

P-Noy wants Torres case resolved fast

By Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT Aquino has ordered the early resolution of a criminal complaint against Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief Virginia Torres in connection with the illegal registration of a Mitsubishi Pajero, former Secretary Leila de Lima said yesterday.

De Lima said the President called her upon reading an Inquirer report on Thursday that Torres—a shooting range buddy whom Mr. Aquino had

PAGE A4 AND A5

ARAB REVOLT

Libya protesters, security clash in capital

TRIPOLI—Protesters and security forces battled in the center of Tripoli in what government sources agreed is the Libyan capital and Moammar Gadhafi's son proclaimed his father as trusted to charge with the hour's looking and would "fight until the last man, the last woman, the last bullet."

Even as Gadhafi's diehard spoke on state television on Sunday night, tribal leaders spoke out against Gadhafi, and Army units defected to the opposition in a revolt that has cost the lives of more than 200 people and left hundreds wounded from gunfire by security forces.

A major government building in the capital was on fire on Monday morning, Reuters said. The building is where the General People's Congress, or parliament, meets when it is in session in Tripoli.

Clashes raged in and around Tripoli's central Green Square, facing mid-dawn on Monday, witnesses said.

LIBYA, A11

Unrest spreads around Arab world / Page A11
DFA: Postpone travel to Libya, Bahrain/ Page A11

Police say military liable for Co death

By Leila B. Salaverria

A POLICE OFFICIAL yesterday said that based on his investigation, the military was responsible for the death of retired brigadier Leonard Co and two companions in the Cordillera Kennings, Leyte, in November last year.

Senior Supt. John Quintanilla Inocki, the Ormoc acting director of the Leyte police, said that in his report, he had

PAGE A6

Cardinal Sin packed 'em at Edsa but Butz sounded the call first

FIRST CALL Butz Aquino, brother of the late Ninoy Aquino, stands on a tank to appeal for mass action on Edsa against the Marcos dictatorship.

Editor's Note: The Inquirer invited deputy "Butz" Aquino to write an account of his call to the people on Feb. 22, 1986, to support the breakaway of then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos. With full cooperation of the retired secretary of Justice Cardinal Sin, for the record, Butz made the call first for people power.

A former senator, the 71-year-old Butz is the younger brother of the martyr Ninoy Aquino. He was also player in the scanning events that played out for four days 25 years ago on Edsa which the world has come to hail and emulate as People Power.)

By Butz Aquino

AFTER THE ASSASSINATION of Ninoy Aquino on Aug. 21, 1983, forces clamoring for democracy and freedom formed Aksyon Demokratiko. Its main objective was mobilization. We could mobilize hundreds in a few hours, or thousands in one day's notice.

CARDINAL, A10

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/42 15 1 20 27 10 1

SUERTRES 6 8 9 4 3 8 7 5 2

FOUR DIGIT 9 2 3 3

MEGALOTTO 6/45 1 3 4 6 18 45 P4,500,000.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO 10 13 25 30 33 41 P30,000,000.00

Binay: Not sure on length of 'stay'

By Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

HE DIDN'T ask and they didn't tell.

Gloria did not say how long the stay of executives on the three Filipinos on death row would hold, and Vice President Jejomar Binay said he didn't ask. But he added that he hoped Beijing would eventually spare their lives.

Emerging from a meeting with President Aquino yesterday following his sightseeing trip to China on Friday, Binay admitted that he did not ask the Chinese officials, including the chief justice, what was meant by the stay of execution being "within the scope of Chinese law."

"I have to admit we didn't [ask]. We were told beforehand by the fact that there was a stay of execution," Binay told reporters in Malacañang.

The vice president said he was also supposed to hand over a personal letter to the Chinese chief justice in which he made his own appeal for the lives of the three Filipinos, but he no longer gave the letter for belaboring the points Aquino had his fill on him.

"Kung papatulan natin pa ang usapin kaya magkakaroon pa ng usapin kaya magkakaroon pa. Of course kami papanawan [If we talked] at length they may have gotten sore. It was OK the way it went," he said.

He said President Aquino did not ask Gloria during their meeting about what the Chinese officials meant by the stay of execution being within the scope of Chinese law.

He said he did not know Gloria must know so he could not explain what they meant.

Still, Binay told the reporters that he retained optimistic about the fate of the convicted Filipinos, the same way that he felt when Chinese officials allowed him to go to Beijing to make a last-minute appeal for their lives.

"I'm still optimistic because in the history of China, there has been no delay in the execution of foreigners). This was the first time. So that gives you a sense of optimism, that there is still hope," he said.

He did not want to raise the expectations of the people, however, on "let's pray for the commutation of their sentences," he said.

Defer to China

Palace officials said they would defer to China for the explanation on the stay of the execution for the Filipinos who convicted of drug trafficking.

"We will leave it to the Chinese authorities to explain," Palace spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said. "It's up to them to say so... let us not preempt the Chinese government on that," Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters.

Lacierda made it clear that its concessions were made for China's deference of the executions, saying that Binay had been "very categorical" about this.

Asked if the government had no expectation of a payback in the future, he said: "Yes, categorically, because we gave no concession to them. It's a "gesture of goodwill and friendship as also emphasized by their diplomatic officials also here."

Yet some senators, however, China's stay of execution for the three convicted Filipinos will come as a price.

"You can't expect China to simply suspend the execution of Filipinos just because we said so, and we said it very nicely and very sweetly," Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said.

"You cannot just say 'please' in diplomatic relations to get what you want. It's up to them to say so... let us not preempt the Chinese government on that," Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters.

China would "ask for trade-offs," such as the termination of the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States, and subsequently the holding of joint military exercises between Filipino and Chinese troops, Santiago said.

Big break in policy

Pitch respect to the dispute on the disputed rock Spratly islands in the China Sea, Beijing would probably ask Manila to be "quiet" or to claim, Santiago said.

Sen. Alfredo Angara agreed, saying "Our postponement is a big break in policy. It would be surprising if China asks for a quid pro quo," he said any agreement should be made public.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, however, said that suspicions that China would ask for concessions were "mere speculations."

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said, "I don't think the Chinese people are doing these things to exact any concession from us. They are too big for that. The fact is, our people violated their laws. In the same manner that if these people violated our laws, we will have to punish them."

Sen. Francis Escudero proposed that the government initiate prisoner exchange treaties with countries hosting overseas workers.

"We should pursue this treaty, especially since we have more citizens in foreign jails rather than the other way around," he said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), however, dismissed as "baseless" and "unfaithful" insinuations of a quid pro quo for the stay of execution for the three Filipinos.

Foreign Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya, also the DFA spokesperson, told the Inquirer that "the postponement of the execution was the product of sustained round-the-clock and vigorous representations made by the Philippine government, culminating with the visit of the President Binay to Beijing on Feb. 18 and 19." With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada

Roxas mission won't include apology to Taiwan

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino's personal emissary, Mar Roxas, was not expected yesterday to issue an apology to Taiwan but to explain the government's deportation of 14 of its nationals to China, according to presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

Lacierda said Roxas, who flew to Taiwan yesterday, was also instructed to discuss Taipei's imposition of stringent new work requirements on Filipinos seeking employment there, Lacierda said.

Roxas, a former senator and running mate of Mr. Aquino in last year's presidential election, is expected to return today and brief President Aquino on the results of his mission to iron out tensions with Taiwan.

Taiwan recalled its representative in Manila and imposed stringent new rules for Filipino overseas workers in protest the deportation of 14 of its nationals to China, where they were promptly accused of credit card fraud. Taiwan's Premier Wu Den-yih, demanded an apology from Manila.

The Philippines maintains a one-China policy, meaning it recognizes only the People's Republic of China. But it maintains an "economic and cultural office" in Taiwan, which hosts an estimated 70,000 Filipino workers.

Arriving in Taiwan yesterday, Roxas was not assured of a meeting with President Ma Ying-jeou, Taiwan Foreign Minister Timothy Yang said "it depended on whether Roxas would present concrete measures to amend ties," news reports said.

Speaking in translation, Lacierda said Roxas had "the full trust and confidence of the President to represent him."

He added that Roxas was doing this in a "private capacity" owing to the country's one-China policy.

Lacierda stressed there was no need for the Aquino administration to apologize to Taiwan "because we believe in the process that we undertook," referring to the controversial deportations.

The reason the Taiwanese nationals were "repatriated" to China was because they "failed to produce any identification that they were Taiwanese nationals," Lacierda said.

Roxas was also expected to tell Taiwanese officials that a case had been filed before the Philippine Court of Appeals regarding the actions taken by the Bureau of Immigration which decided to deport the 14 Taiwanese nationals, he added.

Lacierda also said the Palace had yet to get a clarification from the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) regarding earlier reports that its chief Antonio Perez apologized to Taiwanese officials.

"Nanonong without agreeing that he indeed apologized, it doesn't bind the government. Meco is a private entity," he said. — With reports from Cliff Cabucungan, TJ Burgonio, Abbie Morales, AFP

FORMER Sec. Mar Roxas (left), President Aquino's personal emissary, meets Taiwan Foreign Minister Timothy C. T. Yang before they got down to discussing the Philippine deportation of 14 Taiwanese fraud suspects to China.

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90% of Pinoys want to see Ampatuan trial on TV–SWS

PUBLIC interest in the Maguindanao massacre case remains high with nine out of 10 Filipinos saying that they favor television coverage of the ongoing trial, according to a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

The survey, conducted from Dec. 27 to 30, a year after at least 57 people were gunned down in Maguindanao, also found that satisfaction with the government's handling of the case rose to "neutral" from a "poor" rating in September.

The SWS survey results were published only yesterday in Business World.

Favor for TV coverage of the trial was strong across all regions and socioeconomic classes, with 90 percent of the 1,200 respondents, particularly those in Manila and Mindanao, saying they wanted the trial put on the air. Only 6 percent were against it.

Some 79 percent said they were still "very or somewhat closely" following events surrounding the case.

Overall, the net satisfaction rating regarding government handling of the case rose to a "neutral" position (+) from the "poor" (minus 12) rating recorded in Metro Manila and Mindanao, however, the rating remained "poor."

The score increased by 18 points in Metro Manila but was still a "poor" minus 13. It also remained "poor" in Mindanao at minus 16 from minus 17 previously.

The Maguindanao massacre on Nov. 23, 2009, was the worst election-related crime in recent Philippine history. The main suspects are members of the powerful Ampatuan clan who allegedly sought to stop political rival, Esmael Mangudadatu, from running for governor of Maguindanao.

The 57 victims included relatives and supporters of Mangudadatu, who were set then to file Commission on Elections (Comelec) papers, as well as at least 32 local journalists who traveled in the convoy. (Although the death toll is officially 57, a 33rd journalist, Bonifacio Morong, is believed to have been killed as well. The suspects are being prosecuted for only 57 massacre because the journalist's body remains missing.)

Primary suspect Andal Ampatuan Jr. and 195 others have been charged in connection with the massacre.

Among the regions, Mindanao respondents most favored TV coverage at 92 percent, followed by those in Visayas (91 percent), the rest of Luzon (89 percent) and Metro Manila (88 percent).

Among the socioeconomic classes, 97 percent of classes ABC favored a televised trial, followed by 90 percent among class D and 89 percent among class D.

The SWS survey respondents, nonetheless, perceived in the case rose by four points in Metro Manila and the Visayas to 77 percent and 72 percent, respectively, but fell to Luzon 100 percent from 48 percent and Mindanao (73 percent from 77 percent).

Satisfaction with the government's handling of the case was highest in Luzon outside of Metro Manila (a slightly lower "neutral" net score of plus 1 from plus 5 in September), while a considerable gain was recorded in the Visayas (up 22 points to a "neutral" minus 5).

The survey was conducted using face-to-face interviews. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Malacañang yesterday appealed anew to the Supreme Court to allow media to air the Maguindanao massacre live as it supported the SWS survey showing that nine out of 10 Filipinos want to watch live coverage of the trial of the century.

"Of course, we will go for that," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said. — Inquirer Research; Christine Avendaño

DOJ eyes more murder raps vs Ampatuans

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said the Department of Justice (DOJ) was keen on filing murder charges against members of the Ampatuan clan following the discovery of skeletal remains on one of their properties.

This in addition to the murder cases some family members are currently facing in court in connection with the Nov. 23, 2009, massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao.

Speaking with reporters, De Lima insisted the human remains were those of people abducted by the clan's private militia years ago who were shot dead, buried alive or cut up using chainsaws.

"I was the one who directed the operations. We quietly worked on this," De Lima said, referring to the hunt for and recovery of the remains.

"We kept it on (a) low-key and with (some police officials) because we were careful not to let them (Ampatuans) have advance information. They might have smuggled the remains," she added.

The authorities and forensic experts dug up skeletons in a vast area plantation property fully owned by former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao.

According to De Lima, human remains were also recovered from another plantation allegedly owned by Andal Ampatuan Jr., the primary suspect in the Maguindanao massacre.

"It belonged to a man. We already know who he was, but I cannot reveal his identity. I think he was disappeared," she said.

In Cotabato City on Sunday, a lawyer of the Ampatuans said the search for remains of supposed victims of the family was only "good for media publicity."

Lawyer Kirby Abdullah was quick to disclaim the find, saying the human skull presented at a press conference on Sunday had been dug up many kilometers away from the Ampatuan compound.

Abdullah declared as "misleading" television news that reported that the human bones were exhumed from a vacant lot in Barangay Libutong in Datu Unsay town. But Limpon, the residents had reported no such digging, according to a municipal employee who did not want to be named.

Abdullah said it was "difficult to hold that case, and all that was shown was only good for trial by publicity to create a public opinion" against the clans.

Rebecca Ampatuan, eldest daughter of respondent patriarch Andal Ampatuan Jr. who is also facing murder charges for the Maguindanao massacre, smelled foul over reports that the bones were found in the family compound.

On Thursday, Rebecca Ampatuan said the authorities dug holes in the compound of the old Ampatuan mansion in Shariff Aguak, but they quickly refilled the pits after they found nothing.

But De Lima said Sukarno Bidol, Datus' vice mayor of Datu Unsay, Barangay town, provided much of the information on the supposed mass graves in Maguindanao.

A known ally of the Ampatuans and one of the 197 respondents in the Maguindanao massacre, Bidol cooperated to the authorities in November last year. Marlon Ramos and Jacob Macabare, Inquirer Mindanao

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SBN-0

SB-0

SB-0

SB-0

SB-0

SP-0

SP-0

**SP

Church cancels RH talks with Palace

THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has suspended its dialogues with Malacañang on the controversial reproductive health (RH) bill pending in Congress.

In a letter to President Aquino dated Feb. 15, CBCP president and Tandag Bishop Nereo Odchimar said the local Catholic Church deemed it prudent to defer in the meantime the talks it had initiated with Malacañang, "considering the speed of the ongoing legislative processes in the House and Senate" regarding the family planning measure.

The letter was received by the Office of the President yesterday.

Odchimar cited the strongly worded pastoral letter it issued on Jan. 31, as among the reasons for temporarily calling off the dialogue.

In the pastoral letter, the Catholic bishops stated that the dialogue with Malacañang on the RH bill only revealed the huge disconnect between the two parties on the issue. It also encouraged the Cathlolics to consider mass action amid efforts in Congress to fast-track the RH bill.

Aside from being overwhelmingly endorsed for floor debates by members of the House committee on population, the committee on appropriations also approved the funding for the RH bill last week.

Odchimar pointed out in his letter to the President that the bishops could only address the developments in Congress in the last week of March, when the CBCP convenes its Permanent Council.

He also said the postponement of the talks was due to an ongoing visit of Filipino prelates to Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Nursing topnotcher says it was a test of faith, not knowledge

By Marisar Cilus
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—The night before the nursing board exam, Rhianne's prayers were for her to be "not too complicated" but still pass all her exams so God, even as she was confident that she would ace the test.

She said she really made it a goal to top the nursing licensure examination, her confidence boosted by having spent almost a year reviewing for it.

"But halfway through, I really fought hard to hold back my tears," Rhianne told the broadcast by phone on Monday.

She said she had a mental block that after the first of the two-day exams, her goal was to just at least score a passing rate.

She said she cried to her family on the phone, telling them "I'm sorry." Her mother even had to rush to Quezon province, where she took the exam, and brought her a bible.

"So I was taking the exam, I thought God really answered my first prayer," she said. She believed the exams was not difficult than what she had expected that all she could do was to put all her trust in God.

No. 1 among 85,000

Premier Myrtle Nuson Brias (6, 11), looked back at her experience after the results came out. Brias is one of the 85,000 examinee-members who took the board test in December last year.

Amid all the praises, Rhianne would only say, "It was not me but it was God himself" who answered all those questions for me."

She believed it was not a test of knowledge but a test of her faith.

Rhianne was browsing her Facebook account on Saturday after noon when a friend posted: "Congrats, Topnotcher!"

"I felt having cramps on both my arms," she said, shocked by the results of the exam she thought she would have flunked.

She said she called up her parents, who were on their way back home to Isling, Cavite, from a reunion in Quezon, and told them the good news.

Adventure

Rhianne grew up inside the compound of her school, Informatics University of the Philippines (IMP) in Silang, where her mother Miriam, 58, who has been a professor in public health, is also the dean of its College of Health. Her father, Wealthy, has a doctorate in education and the vice president of ALW Hospital and Medical Center in Marikina.

"I wanted to take up psychology but my sister convinced me that it was fun to be a nurse. And looking back after the exams, it really is," said Rhianne.

Rhianne said she had always been fascinated with the human anatomy and actually enjoyed the long hours of being on duty in the hospital.

Her sister, Eleanor Claire, is also a registered nurse, presently taking up a master's degree, while her young brother, Rhianne, is also taking a medical course.

Family of vegetarians

With everyone in the field of the medicine and health, Rhianne said there is a normal family energy that all of them are vegetarians.

Rhianne planned to pursue higher education in nursing, but she also intended to stay in the country to serve as a nurse.

If ever she would leave the Philippines, Rhianne said it would only to pursue a higher education.

"It's just too much of a blessing. I feel like staying here to my way of giving back," she said.

She, however, said she wonders if she would have trouble finding a job in the country.

"There are even some who work for free just to earn a (job) experience. They have their own reasons," she noted.

ESTRADA

A PORTRAIT OF HEIDI MENDOZA

'Me, a saint? I'm a witch to the max'

By DJ Yap

AS SPEAKER of "House Class" can reduce her to tears as promptly as her high-profile appearances in Congress have made her weep. Still, she did not flinch when a public official once scoffed at her plaid tsinelas.

She's institutions with members and spreadsheets but never knew her beloved's cool name until the wedding. She gets flustered when people ask her to pose for pictures. Yet, her secret history is to star in a swoon-opposite Cesar Montano.

A heroine? No, definitely not, insisted Heidi Mendoza, shaking her head. "It feels...I'm something of a witch," she said.

On Feb. 8, the 49-year-old former government auditor, mother of three, whistle-blower and—in the list found to her considerable—instant celebrity, was the special guest at a dinner with business editors, reporters and columnists in the Philippines.

What emerged from the interview was a portrait of Heidi Mendoza that most people did not know: a woman who likes simple pleasures but who regularly buys books in bulk, a mother who was forced out as a child by her folks but who refuses to spoil her own kids, a hard worker and perfectionist who doesn't like kitchen chores.

She was a picture of self-possession and mindful of times when she bumbled, with blue dress and a shawl wrapped around her shoulders. She laughed freely, cracked jokes, and looked people in the eye when talking to them.

But she ate sparingly, only picking at her food and sparing it her gospel-tar salad—something that may explain her slender frame. "I have not been able to eat well until get a full sleep once all this happened," she said.

Attention, affection

Since her explosive testimonies at the Senate and the House of Representatives, Mendoza has been thrust into the attention of the public, and to some ways, earned a place in its affections, as well.

Between 2004 and 2006, Mendoza led a special team that audited the transactions of former military comptroller Carlos Garcia, and uncovered the misappropriation in his plunder trial in 2007. That this month, she appeared in congressional inquiries looking into the plea bargain struck between the Ombudsman and Garcia.

As she sat as well gaping job-as an analyst at Asian Development Bank (ADB), she had confessed to refute claims that the evidence against Garcia was weak, detailing a particular transaction of his involving a P200-million check, of which P50 million was unaccounted for.

Her testimony, to the relief of sympathizers, was later corroborated by George Rabusa, a former military budget officer who had testified in Garcia's trial, that of giving tens of millions of pesos drawn from a slush fund to Armed Forces chiefs of staff and other top officials.

Mendoza found herself in a maelstrom. Her revelations are understood to have led to the Philippine decision to terminate Dominga Bolkiah her courage. Twenty Catholic bishops released a manifesto praising her for risking her life to "unmask the arrogance" of public officials.

"You have raised us a notch higher as Filipinos," Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño told her in one of many salutations she was to receive that week. A "Valid drive for Heidi" was launched by the Makabayan government, something which she found "embarrassing."

Lifestyle check

In a medieval landscape where scholarly bloggers tend to have vested interests and skeletons in their own closets, Mendoza comes off as astonishing of a rarity: a witness in government irregularities who could tidy claims to have committed none.

Her lifestyle certainly appears to bear this out. One late evening, a Valentine's Day, as her stay home, her aunt picking broke down, and she found herself unraveled over a disorder with only P1,200 in her pocket.

At the time, she said, the entitlement struck her. Into the sun, helpless with her meager possessions, yet every day she interrogated people who had many vehicles and, in a similar situation, would easily make a phone call to get the car towed, or have another sent over.

"This is not to boast, but if I had wanted to be rich, I could've done it long ago. Just look at the agencies I handled," she said.

One of her assignments took her to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"I had just stepped out of the plane when I was told, 'Ma'am, only two things can make you leave here: a suitcase of money or a suitcase of bullets.' I said, 'Can't I have a choice in the matter?' But then, I managed to secure in Manila with no bullets chasing after me," she said.

Mom's way

Mendoza said she knew that taking the decision path meant negotiating a difficult road, a choice that comes here and even her family sometimes found hard to accept.

During a recent gathering where they had a heart-to-heart chatting session about Mendoza's decision to testify at the congressional inquiries, she remembered her youngest child saying there was "God's way" and "Mom's way."

God's way was when she resigned from government after more than 20 years in service to take a consultant's job at ADB. "She started shopping a lot. Then we started hearing a lot of things, we started hearing messages and going to the casino," she recalled her child saying.

Then there was Mom's way "It was a 2-track," her daughter said. "One, relieving us from financial pressures you were under a Filipino," Mendoza recalled.

Tapsilan nalove

Mendoza was born Heidi Llano on Nov. 1, 1962, the sixth of seven children of a policeman and his wife in Tayabas town at the foot of Mount Banahaw in Quezon province.

As a child, she dreamed of being a doctor, but money problems limited her opportunities. She graduated cum laude in her high school class at a private academy and obtained a nonmaster degree at Sacred Heart College in Lucena City.

Determining was very verbal, cool. It was all about numbers, and I didn't really like it. But I told my children, even though I didn't like it, I still told my best because otherwise, I'd feel guilty because my parents were working hard in mind me to school," she said.

In 1984, upon joining the Commission on Audit (COA), where she specialized in auditing fraud audit, she began to love the job. "I thought, hey, this isn't all about numbers after all. There is life in it. There are other aspects to explore. I love investigating, finding clues. Suddenly it felt fulfilling and challenging."

In the early 1990s, a promising treasurer in the South, a subject of her audit who was responsible for disbursement from service, admitted to her that he had hired a gunman to kill her but abandoned the plan at the last minute.

"He told me that he was already in front of the COA, and my was with the gunman already had he was describing how I looked, and how I was dressed, but he said he said, 'Don't change his mind,'" she said.

Mendoza said the confession happened in her office, without another of her colleagues. "My office mate said, 'Heidi, I was listening and watching your interactions, and you had an exam,'" she recalled. What her office mate did not know was that the hairs on her arms were standing on end the whole time.

Man de Maya

She is married to Reynaldo Mendoza, a college professor at Ateneo de Manila University. During their courtship in the 1980s, she knew him only as "Man de Maya," a civil society organizer and activist gone underground.

"To my letters to him, I referred to him as Man de Maya. When I was about to get married to him, that was only when I learned his name wasn't Man de Maya," she said with a laugh.

What their sisters only shown, Mendoza joked, is that it's possible for a harassment and weird society organizer to become a couple. "We have proven that a GO (government office)-NGO (nongovernmental office) collaboration is possible," she said to laughs.

Their two sons and daughter—aged 22, 20 and 17—are all in college. Her sons regret, she said, was she could not be a regular mother to them.

"I'm not any daughter (now) as a mother, and she will tell you, 'My mother, after she comes home from the office, she will lie down with a newspaper. And when it's 6 p.m., she lands to church. That's mother?," she said.

Sometimes, her children complain that she never cooks breakfast. She just tells them that it's the price for being so good at her job.

Sexy dances

At home and at work, she is "cheerful, relaxed." She said: "I step all the time. When music is playing, I would do a sexy dance. My children would get shocked. Then I tell me, 'My people might see ...'"

It doesn't take a lot to make her cry, like the song "Miss Clara." One night, while watching the movie "Hukluk" with her children, one scene drove her to tears. "The kids were all laughing at me. My daughter said, 'Ma, this is not drama. This is horror.'"

Mendoza said she wanted to send the kids abroad are of fear for their safety. But they said her they wanted to be with her. When her second son saw her crying on TV, he sent her a text message that said, "Ma, don't be affected. Compose yourself. Do not give up on the case, as you have supported up on me."

Upon surrendering of public support has left the family overwhelmed, according to Mendoza.

In January, Mayuzaki's students toasted him by calling him "Mr. Heidi Mendoza."

Upon entering a restaurant, locals would ushered her way, people would get up from their seats and approach her for a handshake, and the manager would insist that the stand was on the house.

Her days she feel almost being called a heroine? "It's not true. Because I drink a cool brew, is somebody who, if you ask, will be repeat it. He will. As for me, definitely, if you ask me if I will repeat it, I will say no," she said.

"I got embarrassed because I feel like they're losing me. They think I'm so kind. They think I'm a saint. But I want to tell them I'm a witch in the max," Mendoza said.

HEIDI MENDOZA: "I have been given so much exposure, but I still don't have that contrast with Regie Velasco."

Montano, De Quiros

"I have been in so much limelight. I have been given so much exposure," she said, then jokingly added: "But I still don't have that contrast with Regie Velasco." She revealed a fantasy to be in a Menbos (late-show) movie with Montano as her leading man.

A "solid heavens unsatisfied" since 1995, Mendoza said coming up the lawyers had received her; she had wanted to meet her favorite columnist Conrado de Quiros (though he could not make it to the dinner).

She confessed that shortly after the nominations, she wondered what De Quiros might say about her. "To be honest, after a few days I thought, why not? Conrad de Quiros writing about me?" she said.

Then De Quiros' piece on Mendoza came out on July 9, days of the Inquirer dinner. In it, he wrote: "What much has done in public service in its highest, noblest, self-sacrificing form."

When her children read the column, Mendoza cried to her and asked, "Ma, is this not reason enough for us not to leave the country?"

From before Mendoza came to the public eye, she had had some anonymous hurdles with blessings.

She recalled how a friend had set her up for a meeting with the presidential junior officer Antonio Trillanes IV in July 2003, a day before the aborted Oakwood mutiny. "When I saw him on TV days later, I thought, 'What a disaster. If I had only known he was so handsome ...'" she said.

Two decades earlier, she linked arms with another good-looking rebel leader, Gregorio Honasan (retired, separately, with the same name Miguel Rodriguez) during one of the crowd formations at the height of the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

During the Senate hearing, Mendoza said she wanted to remind him of their serendipitous first meeting. "I wanted to tell him, 'You know, Senator Honasan, I still feel the same, and I'm still honest and dedicated in that sense,'" she said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 22 (Tuesday)
Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
1st Reading: 1 Pt 5:1-4
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6
Gospel: Mt 16:13-19

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1st Reading: 1 Pt 5:1-4

Beloved: I now address myself to those elders among you: I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, hoping to share in the glory that is to be revealed. Shepherd the flock which God has entrusted to you, guarding it not out of obligation but willingly, for God's sake; not in order holding for a reward but with a generous heart; do not lord it over those in your care, rather be an example to your flock. Then, when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will be given a crowned unfading glory.

Gospel: Mt 16:13-19

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, "What do people say about me? Who do they say I am?" They said, "Some of them say you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

"And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overcome it.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Reflection:

Today Jesus asks us to show how we see ourselves as Christians. It's in the fullness of the Good's offer of life and love, in which the past and the future meet to allow us how wonderful this present is! The Christ is the source of all creation, the entire that proclaims us, even on earth, are all sisters and brothers, children of one Source of Life or heaven. Sadly we, Christians, still have to learn who Jesus really is.

Christian Communications Foundation, Inc. // Mission 1: (+) 2 Peter 2:9 (Jesus, Savior) Only, 1974 PO. Box 3 Mission 2 (+) Daniel 9:25; Isa 40; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Rev 21:1-5; Mission 3 (+) Daniel 9:25; Isa 40; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Rev 21:1-5; Mission 4 (+) Daniel 9:25; Isa 40; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Rev 21:1-5; Mission

Gov't-Reds peace talks end with some truce violations

THE PHILIPPINE government and communist rebels ended week-long peace talks in Norway yesterday with each side accusing the other of violating an accompanying ceasefire.

No statements have yet been issued regarding the results of the closed-door negotiations but the two sides are expected to meet again, according to state reports.

In the field, the communist-led New People's Army (NPA) accused the Philippine Army of attacking rebel positions in the mineral-rich town of Compostela last month.

The Army, on other hand, accused the NPA of attacking government troops in Davao Oriental and laying land mines in the island of Samar.

The ceasefire was declared on Feb. 15 to coincide with the start of the six-day negotiations between representatives of the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), with Norway as the facilitator.

An Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson said the latest truce could still be considered "successful."

According to Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr., the reported skirmishes between government troops and NPA guerrillas since Feb. 15 were "minimal" compared to past ceasefire periods.

"There may have been some violations reported but these appear to be minimal," and involved "minor incidents" that saw some persons hurt but none killed, Mabanta told reporters on Monday.

Mabanta denied that the troops were on offensive operations in Compostela. "There are all in the purview of civil-military operations. We cannot just stop this because the people expect this from us," he said.

The ceasefire, he said, was at any rate "a big boost in confidence building measures towards a more lasting peace."

Jorge Madlos, Hilsdiceno-based spokesperson of the NDFP disagreed.

"These violations are indelible marks of the government's hypocritical and chauvinistic attitude toward the peace process," Madlos said in a media statement.

"Until and unless the government is able to keep its troops at bay inside their respective barracks during a ceasefire, then its pronouncements of bringing peace to another round of ceasefire does not augur confidence."

Reuters/Bandigan, with a Reuters report

Corazon A. Pulancec 89

CORAZON A. Pulanco of San Fernando, La Union, died on Feb. 20 at the age of 89.

She is survived by her children Ritchie and Art, Thelma and Yarce Jr., Nena, Frank and Edna, Danny and Annie, Elmer and Lyn, Bert and Pearl, and grandchildren.

Her remains lie at her residence in Barangay Bagbaguel, San Fernando.

Interment will be on Feb. 26 at 3 p.m. at the Catholic cemetery in San Fernando.

Corona categorically denies Vizconde statement

By Nikko Dizon

At least days did not briefly in his by last year, Chief Justice Renato Corona yesterday denied being Laura Vizconde's source of the information against Senate Association pointer Antonio Carpio, according to the high tribunal's spokesperson, Jose Midas Marquez.

"The Chief Justice categorically denies the statement of Ms. Vizconde," Marquez told the reporters.

Marquez said he spoke with Corona to get his reaction to Vizconde's revelation. (It is rare for Supreme Court justices to grant interviews to the media.)

According to Corona, Vizconde had actually warned him of "convincing" with Carpio to delay the decision of the Supreme Court on the appeal of Hubert Webb and company, who were convicted of the gruesome murders of Vizconde's wife and two daughters in 1991.

Marquez said Corona did not ask Vizconde about his accusation against Carpio because "before the court reacts to these allegations, it would have to show proof and substantiate allegations first."

"This appeared to be a bare allegation," Marquez said.

Corona told Marquez that he remembered the meeting taking place sometime in late July last year, inside his chamber at the Supreme Court.

Corona recalled that the two were in there when Vizconde, accompanied by fellow anti-crime crusader Dante Jimenez, arrived at the waiting area.

"The two were very apparently in affluence (public by this time) security considering that they were prominent personalities themselves, being founders of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), Marquez said.

Vizconde and Jimenez followed Corona into his chamber. As they were already there, Marquez said Corona decided to entertain them.

However, Marquez stressed that "it is totally out of character of the Chief Justice and any of the justices of the high court to talk to someone or discuss in private cases with litigants. In this particular case, he is the Chief Justice."

"It was thinking they would bring up their testimony in VACC, being an NGO (non-government organization)," Marquez said.

After a brief chat, Corona recalled that Vizconde "appeared to be very upset because it was the second time (that the court allowed the taking of (Webb's) DNA," Marquez said.

Mr. Vizconde sounded very sure that they were going to get a conviction and in fact, he was very upset because he was accusing the (Chief Justice) and of considering such a case to allowing the DNA just to delay the case," Marquez said.

"Mr. Vizconde was saying, 'Why are you playing into the strategy of the Webbs? Eventually we will get a conviction. But it tends to long deliberation upon? (Now) he just delaying his case. Why don't you decide promptly?' So the (Chief Justice) just said (that it was not his decision, (that) it was the decision of this court en banc. (So it is) only one vote."

Asked if Corona was angered by Vizconde's allegation that he was the one who had leaked Carpio's alleged influence peddling, Marquez replied.

"He was surprised because he was now being accused of saying those things when at first he was the one being accused of colluding with Carpio. Now, it's the reverse. Sinasabi pa na ang nagsabi sa dalawa (It was said that Corona had told the two [about Carpio])."

Marquez also said that while Corona and Vizconde know each other, there was a more acquaintance-wherein the Chief Justice "would not discuss anything like that (cases) with someone he hardly knows personally."

"It's totally out of character. He will just hear (here) and, (and) when (their) concern is," Marquez said.

Corona blew whistle on Carpio, says Vizconde

From page A1

iron, who raised for the group's freedom, of receiving money from the accused.

But before the decision to acquit Webb et al. was announced on Dec. 14, 2010, Vizconde revealed that a justice had received him of Carpio's alleged efforts to secure a reversal of the acquittal by the Panday Bayanihan Tibid Court 13 years ago.

For weeks, Vizconde refused to name the justice, saying he could not guarantee the safety of his family should someone (Magsa mahuhuli kung sino siya").

Vizconde said the Supreme Court apparently believed he made up the story about the secret because the tribunal said he he "could not proceed to substantiate such statement" in its resolution dated Feb. 15.

One portion of the resolution reads: "There is no better time for (Vizconde) to present proof of his accusation than today, not less, three or five years later when the extent he view would have been cleansed by impeachment time shall have ended its freshness and clarity. Forcing off a fight in the course of cowardice or those who have nothing to share and refuse to admit they had been wrong."

'Not irresponsible'

"Salubungkalan, eh (It turned my backfire)," Vizconde said of the resolution.

"I noticed an irresponsible portion of the resolution. Hindi ako nagsasalita nang walang basehan (I don't speak without basis or say something I cannot support)," he said.

Although he still felt he had to protect Corona, Vizconde said there was a need to identify him now because the contents of the letter "could be misleading."

He pointed to a portion in which the Supreme Court accused him of being "artful" for saying Webb bought his acquittal when the widower also refused to name the justice who allegedly requested this to him.

The Inquirer obtained a copy of Vizconde's affidavit dated Jan. 27, 2011, in which he narrated that in early September 2010, he and Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) paid a courtesy call on Corona in his chambers "to congratulate him" on his appointment.

"I even recall that the ... meeting occurred at the old chambers of (former Chief Justice Reynato Puno) because at that time, the new chambers were still undergoing renovation," Vizconde's affidavit read.

"I also recall the Chief Justice apologizing to us for the disorderliness of his chambers because of the ongoing renovations," he added.

Shocked, surprised

"During the session of the conversation, I could not relate, as an aggrieved father and husband, to ask the Chief Justice about the status of the case against Webb and other accused," Vizconde recalled.

He said Corona "told us that as things were proceedings (sic), a decision could be expected within three to four months. But I was shocked and surprised when the Chief Justice, in the best of my recollection, said the following words: 'Magsing kinalaman si siniwalan-sinabi ni Carpio ang kanyang mga kasama para ma-pressuring sila si Webb (Carpio was consulting to some (which) and influencing his colleagues on (that Webb would be acquitted)'," he stated in their affidavit.

Vizconde added that Corona made this statement "in the presence of ... Jimenez."

Jimenez affidavit

A copy of Jimenez's affidavit dated Jan. 26 gave a similar narration of what transpired in Corona's chambers.

"(It) was my belief then, as I believe now, that the information was given to us out of generous concern," Jimenez noted.

Vizconde and Jimenez pre-

pared the affidavits following a Supreme Court order for Vizconde to name three incumbent justices who allegedly tipped him about Carpio's efforts.

The order stemmed from an Inquirer story quoting lawyer Ferdinand Topacio as saying that Vizconde told him of three "court officials" who warned him in separate instances that Carpio had allegedly tried to obtain Webb's acquittal in both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

Topacio, head overseer of the newly formed People's Movement for Justice, said the three officials were still actively employed in either the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals.

But while Vizconde initially intended to comply with the order to name his sources, sensing cover the consequences of a public revelation to these officials made him change his mind.

Admonition, fine

Vizconde's refusal cost him a

From page A1

wrong admonition from the Supreme Court in the en banc resolution.

Jimenez was found guilty of contempt of court for uttering foul language against the justices right after Webb's acquittal was announced. He was fined P100,000.

In its decision announced on Dec. 14 last year, the Supreme Court reversed the guilty verdict imposed by the Pantabangan RTC on Webb and six others in 2000, ending the sentences of witness Jessica Alfaro-Jadeo to prison for perjury beyond reasonable doubt.

Alfaro claimed she saw Webb raping Carmela in the master bedroom of the family residence in ISF Homes Pandacaqui shortly after midnight of June 30, 1991.

The witness said the drug Clonol Webb was a spotted mirror.

Honorable lists found the bodies of Carmela, her mother Josefito and mother Estrellita bearing multiple stab wounds in the same room the following morning.

Police say military liable for death of botanist Co

From page A1

based probable cause to criminally charge the members of the 19th Infantry Battalion.

Senior said at a hearing conducted by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) that there was no conflict between the soldiers and guerrillas in the area, contrary to New People's Army (NPA).

Co's colleagues and supporters, who had conducted their own probe of the shooting, made a similar contention.

Senior's conclusion came contrary to the claim of the military and a Department of Justice (DOJ) panel that Co, former botanist Caron and farmer Julius Buenosos were killed in a crossfire and that the bullets that hit them came from the NPA.

Senior said the DOJ already filed the complaint against the members of the 19th IB.

No evacuation

"Based on our investigation, there was no encounter, your honor," he said on the hearing, which lasted from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Co's family was present all throughout the CHR hearing.

Senior said his team had combed the area but found no evidence that NPA guerrillas had been there.

He said the testimony of the two surviving companions of Co were credible. The survivors—Nonito Olar and Rolando Bobas—had said that they had seen no other people in the area.

The soldier (who) claimed that the NPA rebels ran to the area where Co's group was working.

Senior said he even tested the hands for gunshot residue of Olar and Bobas, but he would look for bullet wounds in the latter. He later had been able to open the wounds even in the dense forest.

The police official said that if soldiers could find small wounds, he would have seen all the more other people in the area where they had been working.

Co said his four companions were suffering spontaneous swellings of undetermined sizes in the Mamamasan, Barangay Bulanon in Leyte for the Legaspi-owned Energy Development Corp. (EDC) when they were attacked.

Too early to conclude

Earlier during the hearing, CHR Chair Loretta Rosales said it would be too early to conclude that the military did not kill Co and his two companions because not all of the guns of the soldiers who were in the area have been tested.

Rosales said the National Bureau of Investigation's finding that the bullets that killed the victims did not come from the 19th IB was premature in the absence of only nine soldiers' firearms.

Rosales said there were supposedly 28 firearms during the Army operation that resulted in the supposed crossfire.

"What we're saying is that there are nine (weapons) left to the nine firearms, but 27 have not been inspected," she said. "Can we now conclude that the bullets did not come from the 19th Infantry Battalion, even though we've only nine (weapons) tested?"

She added that as far as the nine firearms were concerned, there were not used to kill the victims.

"But this is not enough. You still not say that there were 27 others," she said, during her questioning of NBI officials.

Not from firearms

NBI special investigator Rizaldy Rivera said the examination of the bullets recovered from the bodies showed that they did not come from the nine firearms submitted for testing by the 19th IB.

Rivera also said that based on the distance of the soldiers' positions on a ridge overlooking the location of Co's group, it would not have been possible for them to hit the victims.

He said the NBI only compared the nine firearms of the 19th Infantry Battalion 12. Col. Federico Tuason, the commanding officer of the 19th IB, had said only nine personnel had been involved in the crossfire.

Ballistics expert Ponce Bituanon said that through the recovered bullets were deformed, it was still possible to check their individual characteristics and determine if these had been fired from a particular gun. None came from the nine firearms submitted, he added.

Limited time

Rivera also noted that the NBI had a limited time to conduct its probe, since it was only given 30 days. It later asked for a 15-day extension.

Rosales said the NBI should not have been bound by the statement of Tuason and could have asked the military to submit the firearms of the 27 other soldiers.

She also wondered how investigators could conclude that the military did not kill Co and his companions when all but one of the cartridges recovered from the scene came from soldiers' firearms.

She also noted the statements from the NBI that the soldiers had supposedly gone down from the ridge where they had positioned themselves during the encounter. Five fully-armed soldiers trained in their guns were found to have passed that area closer to where the victims had been.

This was contrary to the soldiers' claim that they were only on the ridge, she added.

Account of survivor

Also during the hearing, Co's surviving companion (she is) recounted the details of his colleagues' execution that they (group) first heard not a single gunshot, but several shots being fired all at once.

He said the group got down on the ground and kept on shouting for mercy. "We were shouting, 'please sir, enough sir, we are not enemies.' I was pleading that we were not enemies," he said.

Co was crying when the hail of bullets killed him, (she added.

She also said that after the gunfire stopped, the soldiers came up to him and asked him where his weapon was. He said he and his companions were made to lie down on the ground for ten minutes.

He said he was pleading for help but was told to keep quiet. An injured Buenosos was also asking for help but the soldiers did not immediately provide him with first aid.

EDC testimony

For his part, EDC president Richard Tantoco said the military had (a "championing" in hiding its KBHC Chief troops were in the area and ready for combat.

Tantoco said this was despite the company informing the military beforehand that its employees were in the area.

"They're there championing? Yes... I don't know. The legal implications if there was gross negligence or negligence but definitely they should have informed us," Tantoco said.

He later added that the military should have informed EDC that it was on a combat mission.

Objection

Tantoco also objected to the DOJ's recommendation that the EDC be held liable for the death of the employees, and said that as he understood it, it was a preliminary report.

"It's clear in our minds that it won't hold water," he said.

Manuel Dura, the resident manager of EDC's Leyte Geothermal Production Field, also said that the military had not informed the EDC of its plans.

Baguio IT students teach computers to speak Ilocano

From page A1

gonese the Ibaloi Wordlist.'

Filipino users will find Wikitionary useful because it is a lexical database or synonyms that performs as dictionary and thesaurus for Ilocano, Ibaloy said.

The program drew inspiration from Princeton University's WordNet (PWN), he said.

"The Ilokano WordNet is a compilation of Ilocano terms which are arranged in a manner that helps the computer detect the relationship of each word ... so (it detects) the meaning and semantic relationship of these words," he said.

In their presentation of the WebNet, the students used number codes and symbols to represent words for the program before they typed in Ilocano words for body parts, animals as well as useful Ilocano verbs.

'Tanggued'

The WebNet correctly translated the English word "Look" into the Ilocano "tanggued," "station" into "tatalon" and "arrive" into "ngengan pannone (literally to breath out)."

But being said the accuracy of the translator needed more fine-tuning because the original PWN matrix was not compatible with Ilocano.

The WebNet has translated into Ilocano 37 percent of English words referring to body parts, 36 percent of English words referring to animals and 29 percent of English verbs uploaded by students.

Another group of ELO students, led by Bryan Bautista, has been studying how artificial intelligence would understand the grammatical rules of Filipino, using the possibilities offered by "Alduen," a computer software which lead human contestants in a special edition of the American television quiz show "Jeopardy!"

Tagalog Net-Tagger

The software of Bautista's group is called Tagalog Net-Tagger.

"It's an intermediate step for the computer to understand the semantic and syntactic meaning of words in a sentence," Bautista said.

Various groups have made researches and their codes Filipino words to come up with a basic Filipino translator online, but Bautista said his team believed it was the only one to use artificial intelligence for the job.

Other teams used grammatical rules and mathematical equations to help a computer "tag" or recognize a complete sentence in Filipino. Those rates provide positive results 87 to 95 percent of the time, he said.

Neurons

Bautista's team has been using equations to teach computers Filipino using computation units called "neurons."

"It took the computer five months to learn one task. We did not what it off the whole time," Bautista said.

"One or two years would not be enough to develop this. Tagalog Net-tagger is still not as effective (as Webnet). Webnet was developed for four years by many teams. We're only six (students)," he said.

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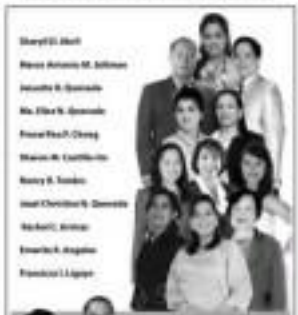

Court of the Table
Janet S. Tan

Top of the Table
Bernardo P. Abril

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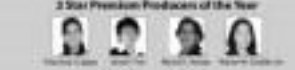
GALAXY OF STARS

4 Star Premium Producer of the Year

3 Star Premium Producers of the Year



2 Star Premium Producers of the Year

1 Star Premium Producers of the Year

2 Star Performer in New Business

1 Star Performers in New Business

1 Consistent Star Performer in New Business Sales

PRODUCT SPECIALISTS

Variable Life Producers

Future Perfect Specialist of the Year

Freedom To Live Your Life

Cardinal Sin packed 'em at Edsa but Butz sounded call first

From page A1

He jogged regularly from Camera to Baclaran on Sundays to build stamina and spirituality until he were able to launch a march from Baclaran to the Manila cathedral, a distance of 7 kilometers away. He started with 300 marchers.

The military blocked us in Makawasli, but after a three-day stand-off in Mojonnon, Bulacan, we proceeded to Manila. The event has universal and international media and established Ninoy as one of the major groups in the peoon movement against the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, 1986, at around 6 p.m. we heard over the radio that Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos had broken away from Marcos.

We were at a dinner party when we were told that there would be a replay of the breakaway announcement of Enrile and Ramos on radio and that they were holding out at Camp Aguinaldo.

To support or not

We debated whether to support this breakaway group.

I said this was serious. This was not a Makarilla breakaway the painful words used by Enrile and Ramos were very damaging. Ramos was 3 cabinet members Enrile saying Marcos cheated with more than 200,000 votes in Enrile's province in the Feb. 7 snap presidential election. We considered that it was time to support this breakaway group in order to divide the military. We had learned in our studies on active nonviolence that we needed to break the pillars that support the dictatorship. Obviously, the military components were the strongest pillar supporting the Marcos dictatorship. So if we succeeded in splitting the military, the dictatorship could very well collapse.

We checked with the other opposition leaders. Cory Aquino was in Cebu pushing a campaign of civil disobedience and would not be contacted. Jun, Pepe Diokno and, "Bayan" me many magpaiwanan sila (Lor Ocampo and others). Joma Sison, Crecilia Munoz Palma asked: "What are your plans?" I said we will support Enrile and Ramos. The others of our group to our tactical ally. He said: "God be with you."

At home, I informed, I went to Camp Aguinaldo with only my driver to gather more information and, possibly, to talk to Enrile or Ramos to assess the situation.

The call

Upon reaching the camp, I noticed that there were very few military men guarding the gates. I asked one if I could see Enrile. After the guard made a phone call, I was led to the office and those where I was met by Enrile. He appeared nervous and was perspiring. I realized that he was wearing a bullet-proof vest. I said, "Minister we are here to help you," said we have some food and medicine and a lot of people but we did not have any arms. He replied, "We need all the help we can get."

Everything that happened after that morning was spontaneous.

In the same room, I saw Jose Torres, a reporter of Radio Veritas speaking on the phone. I asked if he was patched on to Radio Veritas, and he said "Yes." I decided to make up call.

I remember saying over the radio: "Ninoy nananawagan sa dcare at sa labas ng mamalayang sa Pilipinas, magpunta sa bahayan Gulmo ngayon para supersalubin nang si Ninoy" Enrile at General Ramos." (I am calling all those members and all Ninoy Filipinos to assemble in Bahayan Gulmo to support the breakaway group of Minister Enrile and General Ramos.)

Why Bahayan? Because that was the assembly for Ninoy when he arrived in Cebu.

I proceeded there at around 10:30 p.m. and saw six people I did not even know. We spent each other encouragement.

10,000 come marching

At 11 p.m. dozens of Ninoy members and supporters started arriving, saying "Hindi ko naman pahahayaan (We won't let you down)." But others said "Napakaliit na numero nyo sa Enrile (There is going to get us in harm's way)." By 11:15 p.m. hundreds came and at around 11:30 p.m. thousands arrived...mostly Ateneo members, supporters and just plain "usisa" (curious, or kibitzers).

By midnight, at least 10,000 had gathered in the area and as we started marching on Edsa toward Camp Crame. There, I asked to see Ramos and I was ushered in his office on the second floor, passing the others outside the gate.

Ramos appeared cool and confident. Following a briefing, we were asked to man all the gates in the camp, to serve as an early warning system. I later realized I was sent here also to protect Enrile in case of an attack by the Marcos forces.

I remember asking him, "How many do we have in Camp Crame?" He said 3,000. I assumed 3,000 soldiers and cops. Ramos then said, "We have a little problem." I found out later that the 3,000 included noncombat personnel, including clerks, bookkeepers and "kamukhaps" The most accurate figure was about 500 soldiers only.

Manning the gates

We left Ramos and divided the different groups that marched with us. The Ateneans were given one gate, the Sacdalans another, and OL UST and La Salle were also assigned to different gates. To my surprise, everybody just followed our orders. Nobody questioned our leadership. It seemed nobody wanted to be a leader at that time.

At 4 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 23, we saw Ramos jogging along Edsa, giving us the impression that everything was under control.

At 5 a.m., the spontaneous "demonstrators" went home. They promised to come back at 8 a.m. We were down to people. By 2,000. As usual for Filipinos, they came late, arriving at 9 a.m.

Credit to Cardinal Sin

At 10 a.m., we were back in the thousands. I am floored that to the call of Jaime Cardinal Sin who sometimes at midnight made a broadcast and exhorted the people to support Enrile and Ramos.

By 11 a.m., we were at least 100,000. I was told that Gen. Alfredo Lim was looking for me. So I had a meeting with him in some antique room. He told me that he had orders to disperse us.

I told if Gen. Ishias Sr, Marcos' Armed Forces chief of staff, gave him that order, we would not follow it. If Ramos told us to disperse then we would disperse. I went out and "Hindi ako bata ako si General Ramos at PC-INP (Isa't Gmore, si Ramos pero bosss?" So Lim called Ramos and, of course, I could only hear several "Yes, sirs." And when I asked what Ramos told him, he said Ramos just said "Bahala ka na, Fred (It's up to you)."

After a few minutes, Lim called me again and informed me that there were going to be no dispersal. People just came bringing with them water, juice, sandwiches, anything and everything that they could share with other people. People came because they wanted to be counted among those protesting against Marcos.

At about 1 p.m. tanks started rolling in from Ortigas Avenue. We proceeded to the area, but been to stop the tanks? We did not know just yet. However, where we got there, they pushed me on top of the lead tank to address the crowd.

Using a bullhorn, I remember telling Brig. Gen. Artemio Tadiar: "The is what we have been fighting for. We are fighting for our freedom, and if we have to sacrifice our lives, we are prepared to do so."

Tadiar ordered me to get down from the tank and my pants was ripped while getting off, showing my behind.

2 nuns

We are in front of the lead tank. Two nuns appeared and knelt in front of us. Then the tanks started rolling toward us.

I wanted to run but could not because the two nuns then in front. Instead, I would rather lose my life than lose face. I could not imagine myself running ahead of the nuns. There was also a penny lady beside me. I said that if the tanks did not really run over us, I would have to pummel her by throwing my body on top of her so we would get squished together. Bahala na! (to be it) I was very set to run.

The tanks stopped about three meters in front of us. There was a collective sigh of relief. There was wild jubilation. We were grateful that the tanks stayed in.

We marched back to Edsa. We were embedded in front of Camp Crame for the rest of the afternoon and evening waiting for news and other developments.

MIRACLE OF EDSA. Over the Church-run Radio Veritas, Jaime Cardinal Sin asks the people to leave their homes and go to Edsa to join the non-violent protest against the Marcos dictatorship.

'This is it'

Monday morning, Feb. 24. Helicopters flew overhead. I said, "Oh boy this is it!" I was thinking we might be bombed or strafed.

But looking up and following the flight paths of the choppers, we saw that a number aboard one of the helicopters flashed to the crowd below the Latin (Igbo) sign...the thumb and forefinger—of approval sec. to the Marcos regime. We all sighed in relief and gave it out.

There was loud cheering from the people outside the gates of Camp Crame.

Rumors were rife that Marcos had fled the country. There was an uncertain joy because we were not sure if the rumors were true.

Later, we found out that Marcos was still around. As people who left Edsa returned. The three members met to discuss the next move. We were now persuaded that it is longer stay as we did in Mojonnon.

It happened so fast

We were later informed that Ninoy would be veteran time of this. On Tuesday morning, Feb. 25, I came to Club Filipino to witness Cory being sworn into office by Justice Claudio Teehankee. I went back to Edsa after the ceremony and informed the Ateneo members what had transpired.

Since we didn't plan the "Edsa Revolution" we never surprised that it ended abruptly. While we hoped for the expulsion of Marcos, we did not anticipate that it would happen that fast.

In that time, we should plan the results of our activities beyond our sudden victories.

P-Noy wants Torres case resolved fast

From page A1

named to head the CIDG last July—and 21 other CIDG officials and PNP personnel were facing criminal and administrative charges arising from serious breaches in their duties.

He added that because he read the Inquirer story. The President asked if there was really a complaint. So we were able to verify that there is," De Lima told reporters, referring to a police report on the alleged illegal registration of the Pajero on May 7, 2009, while Torres was head of the CIDG office in Cebu City.

"I just checked the status [of the complaint]. It's already up for resolution. It's just a matter of few days," De Lima said.

In Malacañang, reporters asked Mr. Aquino's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, if Torres still enjoyed the President's trust and confidence. "There's a counter-affidavit [filed] by respondents there. So, until such time that the case has been decided, let's give Mr. Torres the presumption of innocence."

Torres and the 21 others, including six CIDG district directors, were named in a complaint filed by Chief Supt. Leonardo A. Espina, head of the Highway Patrol Group (HPG), in Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Versoza.

The report, a copy of which was screened last week by the lawmen, was prepared amid a public uproar over the grisly killings of six drunken Filipino Evangelistas and Eleuteon Lozano blasted on a pump allegedly led by the brothers Roger and Raymond Dominguez.

Senior PNP officials have been implicated in the abduction of the Dominguez brothers. An investigation into the case is being continued by the Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG).

Decision within week

Torres has dismissed the charges against her as a "demolition" job.

She did not return calls when the Inquirer tried to get her reaction.

De Lima said that the Department of Justice (DOJ) would "definitely" treat the complaint against Torres with fairness "as we always do without fear or favor."

Asked if Mr. Aquino discussed her case personally with her, De Lima said: "The fact that he also wants to know if there was really a case ... it's natural [whenever] [We won't let you down]." But others said "Napakaliit na numero nyo sa Enrile (There is going to get us in harm's way)." By 11:15 p.m. hundreds came and at around 11:30 p.m. thousands arrived...mostly Ateneo members, supporters and just plain "usisa" (curious, or kibitzers).

TORRES. Dismissal charges.

underground. We should quickly resolve it even without the President telling me that."

De Lima said she had ordered Prosecutor General Claro Arellano to direct the prosecutor handling the Torres case to do so within 7 days if there was probable cause in the criminal complaint against her.

"My only instruction is to fast track, expedite the resolution of that case," she said, adding that she expected the department's national prosecution service to release a resolution "within the week."

Mandated timetables

The justice secretary said she also ordered the prosecutor to explain why the case had been delayed by almost two years. She pointed out that complaints filed in the DOJ should be resolved within the mandatory period of 60 days.

"It really frustrates me when some of our prosecutors fail to observe the mandated timetables," De Lima said. She said she expressed her displeasure to them.

De Lima said the joint DOJ-DILG task force against cattle theft gangs had obtained the names of other government officials conspiring and facilitating the registration of stolen vehicles. Some of these officials, among them LTO personnel, were reportedly facing warning of criminal and administrative cases.

"The registration of stolen vehicles is facilitated through the connivance of co-opted and compromised LTO officials and personnel," De Lima said. "Otherwise, how can they sell stolen vehicles which were granted with new chassis numbers, registration papers and other documents?"

HPG backtracks

Supt. Edwin Donasar yesterday said the HPG was not investigating Torres for involvement in car theft activities. "In fairness to Asst. Lieutenant Secretary] Torres, we have not issued any statement linking her directly or indirectly in carnap cases," the HPG spokesperson told reporters in Camp Crame.

Donasar said Torres might not have known the documents of the vehicle. "It does not mean that the motor vehicle was carnapped or stolen. We have not certified that it was carnapped or stolen," Donasar explained.

"There may be some personnel doing those irregularities but those may be unknown to her."

Donasar also said that Torres had been charged in 2009 with falsifying documents of the Pajero, which the HPG certified as belonging to a motorcycle in Roxas City, Isabela.

Torres signed the certificate of registration of the Pajero sometime in April 2009 when she was district head of the LTO office in Cebu City. The Pajero was first registered in 1999 in Cebu City before Torres was elected.

Burden of proof

Balisacan said it was up to Torres to prove that she did not willfully commit falsification when she signed the vehicle's papers in 2009. "[She] could argue that everything is done in good faith[that she did not realize that it was irregular], that's for her to prove [her]." He said a check with the HPG's office revealed that the case against Torres was still in the preliminary investigation stage at the DOJ.

He also said the HPG was no need to investigate Torres for involvement in the carnapping. So far as we are concerned, the case refers to the apprehension and the irregular or irregular registration. We recover a stolen vehicle, we check on the registering we file the case and it's up to the courts to do the rest."

Donasar also noted that the HPG had filed charges against certain LTO personnel and police officers, as mentioned in the report. "But it does not mean that they are directly or indirectly involved in carnapping. Reports about the PNP or LTO personnel involved in carnapping is another thing to be investigated."

In Cebu City, Eduardo Mata, the LTO district chief in Ilaya City denied he facilitated the registration of a Pajero stolen in Isabela. "I don't know if it was a stolen vehicle. All the documents submitted were complete," said Mata, one of those facing administrative charges.

With a report from Nikko Dizon in Manila, and Rhonnea Arpallaryan, Inquirer Visayas

Unrest around the region

1 BAHRAIN

2 EGYPT

3 IRAN

4 LIBYA

5 MOROCCO

6 TUNISIA

7 YEMEN

LIBYA: The son of the Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi, warned that continued antigovernment protests could lead to a civil war. The uprising spread to the capital, Tripoli, while protesters in the eastern city of Benghazi took over the city.

BAHRAIN: Protesters consolidated their hold on Pearl Square, joined by thousands more supporters, and set opposition party demands that the government answer in the many demonstrations still ongoing.

IRAN: Security forces dusted off an effort by opposition supporters to conduct simultaneous demonstrations in several cities. Two major opposition figures—Mir Hussein Moussavi, a former presidential candidate who was reported missing last week, but is now confirmed to be under house arrest, and Mehdi Karroubi—had called for the protest after two demonstrations were killed last week.

MOROCCO: More than 10,000 people turned out in cities across the country to call for more limits to the power of King Mohammed VI, better food prices, freedom for inmate prisoners, rights for workers and other causes. The situation remained peaceful, and the police did not intervene.

YEMEN: Violence erupted in cities as protesters and supporters of President Ali Abdullah Saleh entered a standoff in the capital, Sanaa.

TUNISIA: Thousands joined the biggest rally in Tunis since the January overthrow of the government that the interim government resigns.

EGYPT: Most banks reopened, and the Egyptian museum in Cairo and the pyramids of Giza were opened to the public for the first time since protests began in January.

IRAQ: In the country's north, clashes between students and rival political factions overturned the Kurdistan region for another day, ending with one person dead and about four dozen wounded. A TV station that had been covering the turmoil was also set on fire by protesters. *New York Times News Service*

Inquirer Research

Libya protesters, security clash in capital

They repulsed snipers spraying fire on crowds trying to enter the square, and Gadhafi supporters speeding through in vehicles, shooting and running over protesters.

Early Monday, protesters took over the office of two of the multiple state-run media news channels, witnesses said.

Bloody clashes

The protests and violence were the heaviest yet in the capital, a sign of the spread of unrest after six days of demonstrations in other cities and surrounding the end of the oil-rich Gadhafi's rule.

In Libya's second biggest city, Benghazi, protesters were in control of the streets after days of bloody clashes and many mourning over the many security handpicked by Gadhafi's regime, several residents said.

Some residents said Benghazi was effectively in the hands of the protesters after they forced troops and police to retreat in a compound. Government buildings were set ablaze and ransacked.

Salahuddin Abdullah, a self-described protest organizer, said: "The city is no longer under military control. It is completely under demonstrators' control."

A British Airlines flight trying to land in Benghazi on Monday was forced to divert over the airport's then-return to Istanbul.

Protesters took down the Libyan flag from almost Benghazi's main courthouse and in its place raised the flag of the country's old monarchy that was toppled in 1969 in the military coup that brought Gadhafi to power.

Son defends father

The revolt shaking Libya is the latest and most violent turn in the rebellion across the Arab world that seemed unthinkable just two months ago and now poses the greatest threat in four decades to Gadhafi's autocratic power.

The United States has condemned the Gadhafi government's lethal use of force.

The wave of protests sweeping the region has already toppled the leaders of Egypt and Tunisia.

In a rambling, disjointed address delivered about 1 a.m. on Monday, Gadhafi's son Seif said his father would prevail.

"We are not Tunisia and Egypt," he said. "Moammar Gadhafi, your leader, is leading the battle in Tripoli."

"The armed forces are with him. Tens of thousands are backing him to be with him. He will fight until the last man, the last woman, the last bullet," he said in a rambling, unstructured speech.

He warned Gadhafi opponents that they risked igniting a civil war to rehash Libya's oil wealth "will be burned."

Bragging a finger at the cameras, he blamed Islamists, thugs, drunks and drug abusers and foreigners for frustrating the protests, but he also promised dialogue on reforms and wage rises if protests stop.

'42 years of lies'

Seif's cajoling may not be enough to douse the anger unleashed after two decades of rule by Gadhafi—mirroring events in Egypt where a popular revolt caused the normally impregnable Hosni Mubarak to flee.

"People here in Benghazi are laughing at what he is saying ... he is like Bin Ali (Tunisia's ousted president) or Mubarak," a lawyer in Libya's second city said BBC after watching the speech.

Seif has often been put forward as the regime's liberal reformer, and the elder Gadhafi's sons have powerful positions in the regime.

Seif's younger brother Mutassim is the national security adviser with a strong role in the military and security forces, and another brother, Khamis, heads the Amn's 32nd Brigade, which according to CIA documents is the best-trained and best-equipped force in the military.

The clashes in Tripoli began on Sunday, when protesters from various parts of the city began to stream toward central Green Square, chanting "God is great."

In the square, they found groups of Gadhafi supporters, but the larger number of protesters ring Kotto and were in constant contact with Filipino nationals.

Pe stations have advised Filipinos to be alert when in public places, or on major roads, and to stay away from large crowds and demonstrations," according to Malaya.

In Libya, the Philippine Embassy has "recommended strictly" that the Filipino recruitment manager of SMC Company on the situation of some 1,000 Filipino workers at an airport construction site in Benghazi," Libya's second largest city.

The mission was "informed that the Filipinos were safe within the mark site, which has its own security compliment," the OFS said.

The SMC construction site is about 19 kilometers from central Benghazi, where the violent protests are taking place.

Contrary to some reports, the Filipinos employed by SMC "have accounted for some and simple food and water," the Philippine Embassy in Libya said.

It said that in Tmi, Indonesian, Pakistani, Indian and Bangladesh counterparts "have not announced any evacuation for their nationals."

In Bahrain, the Philippine Embassy has advised the Filipino community to "remain calm and avoid participating protest actions," the DFA said.

About 31,000 Filipino migrant workers are based in Bahrain, some 26,000 are in Libya while 1,400 are in Yemen, according to the DFA. *With a report from AFP*

DFA: Postpone travel to Libya, Bahrain

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Philip C. Tubeza

PACIFIC/SITE governing course in the Arab world, the government yesterday urged Filipinos to postpone nonessential travel to Libya, Bahrain and Yemen, and said it was studying whether to order the deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in these troubled countries.

The Aquino administration took the move as the unrest that recently toppled regimes in Tunisia and Egypt grew and spread to other countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) advises Filipinos who have plans to travel to Libya, Bahrain or Yemen to defer nonessential and nonurgent travels until the security situation in these countries has stabilized," the DFA said.

"This is in light of recent actions taking place in those countries," it said.

Assistant Foreign Secretary Eduardo Malaya, the DFA spokesperson, said the Philippine embassies in Tripoli, Manama and Riyadh—which has jurisdiction over Yemen—were on "heightened alert."

But Malaya pointed out: "Filipinos in those countries are safe."

"There is no necessity for repatriation at this time," Malaya told Agence France-Presse.

Malaysia and the Philippine embassies had established 24-hour crisis monitoring units and were in constant contact with Filipino nationals.

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Diplomats resign

Libya's representative to the Arab League said he resigned his post to protest the government's decision to fire on defiant demonstrators.

Libya's ambassador to India Ali el-Essawi told the BBC he was resigning in protest at the violent crackdown.

The whereabouts of Gadhafi himself remained unclear on Sunday.

Over the last three days his security forces have killed at least 223 people, according to Human Rights Watch. Many of the deaths came from machine gun fire.

After protesters marched on a barrack protest, soon on Sunday the security forces opened fire again, killing at least 60 more, the group said.

News blackout

The Libyan government has tried to impose a blackout on the country. Foreign journalists cannot enter. Internet access has been almost totally severed, with only occasional access, though some protesters appear to be using satellite phone connections or phoning information to services outside the country.

Al Jazeera, viewed by many as a cheerleader for the democracy movements arising the region, has been taken off the air.

With the borders largely shut down, residents can no longer make international calls from the Local Telecommunications network. Even by the eyewitness reports trickling out of the country suggested that protesters were fighting back more forcefully against the Middle East's longest-serving leader.

Video footage posted on the Internet on Monday showed men in bulletproof clothing firing in indiscriminate volleys, sometimes chanting, "Long live Libya" and "Libyans all one."

Protesters also took over the Bab'ilu, the city's main security headquarters.

Inside the compound, protesters found the bodies of 13 uniformed security officers who had been handcuffed and shot in the head. Some had also been stabbed, witnesses said.

Hassan said protesters believed the 13 had been executed by fellow security forces for refusing to attack protesters.

The Beni has vanished with alarm as long-time allies and old foes have come under duress, appealing for reform and urging restraint.

Libya is Africa's fourth biggest oil exporter, producing 1.6 million barrels of oil a day. Oil jumped by more than $3 a barrel to $103.5 a barrel, as fears the unrest could disrupt supplies. *Reports from All theaters and New York Times News Service*

People's Choice
GOLD 2009
GOLD 2008
GOLD 2007
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
PLATINUM
PILOT
Experience the ultimate writing instrument
V5 & V7
Hi-Tecpoint
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
PILOT CORPORATION

Lexus Launches World's First Full Hy

The Philippines recently became one of the first countries to introduce the world's first luxury full hybrid compact vehicle, Lexus Manila, the official distributor, announced the arrival of the CT200h in a star-studded event held at the Peninsula Manila last Monday.

Lexus enthusiasts of all ages and distinguished media friends were in attendance as Lexus Manila took the wraps off their newest hybrid vehicle in the by-invitation-only event. It featured the talents of world-renowned singer/songwriter David Pomeranz. Mr. Pomeranz, together with the "Divine Diva" Zsa Zsa Padilla and "Concert Queen" Pops Fernandez, enthralled the packed crowd with renditions of their hit songs as the baby in the Lexus hybrid lineup, the CT200h, established its place alongside its larger siblings, the RX450h SUV and the flagship of the Lexus family, the LS460hL.

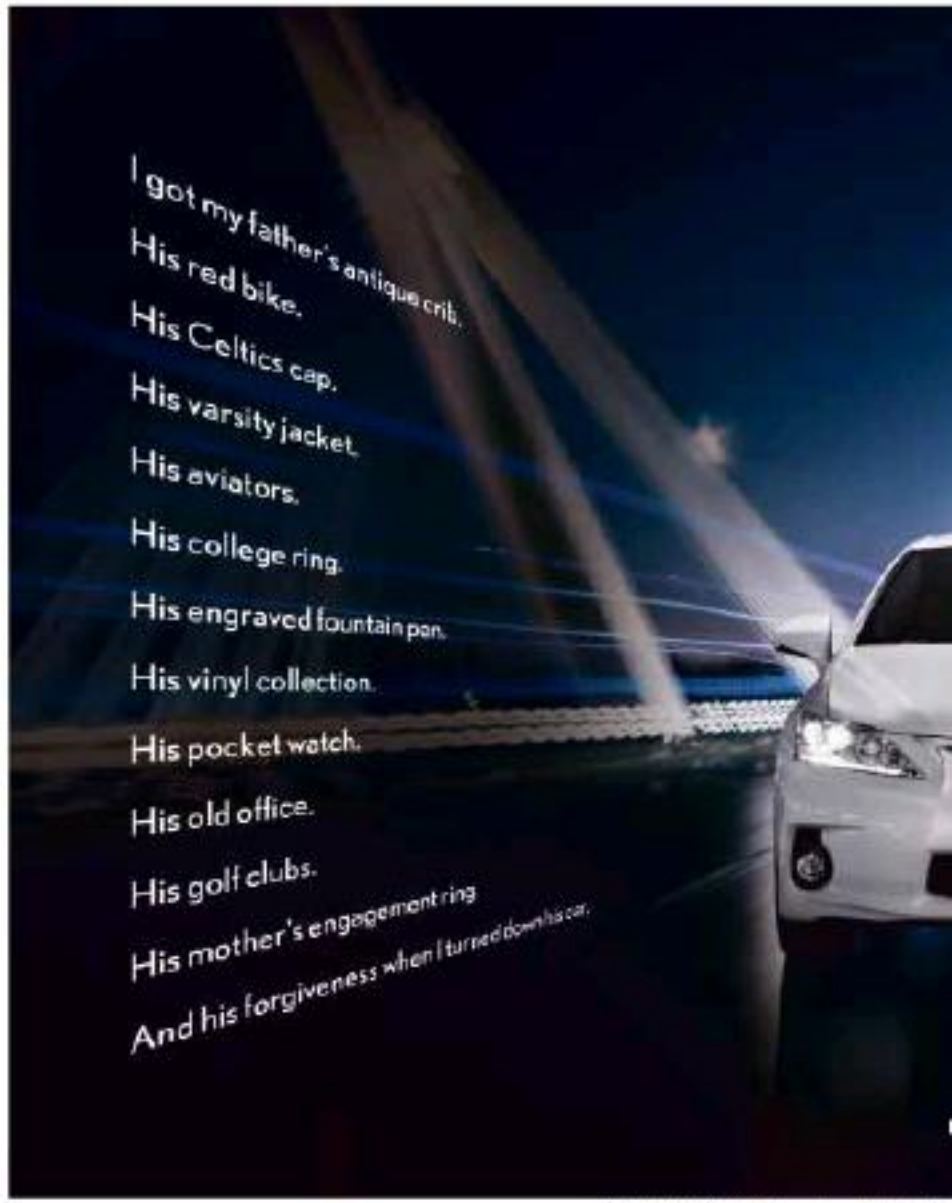
With a focus on performance, the Sport hybrid provides a sporty ride and an aggressive edge without sacrificing any of the traits that make it a genuine Lexus: comfort, practicality, refinement, and luxuriousness. With an innovative "3 mode, 3 tender" selector, owners can be treated to two very different cars in the blink of an eye as the CT200h switches from ECO to SPORT mode, adjusting to the driver's intended driving style.

In ECO mode, the CT200h behaves as a typical Lexus hybrid vehicle would, focusing on fuel economy and providing a serene ride. The combination of an innovative 1.8L Atkinson cycle engine and powerful permanent magnet electric motors allows the hybrid to reach a fuel economy of up to 34.48km/L (combined).

In SPORT mode however, the other side of the coin becomes clear. Interior lighting is replaced with a p embodies the difference that has just been u mode, the Sport hybrid defies existing pre hybrid vehicles, firming up the electric power a very direct steering feel, and boostin performance from 5MB to its maximum cap reaches a combined output of 134hp; the seamless and rapid acceleration.

In addition, traction control and vehicle disabled down and the CT200h allows the drive power over the car—perfect for light switchb of road bonuses.

The CT200h's performance didn't co



LEXUS MANILA INC. | 3402 8th Avenue Corner 34th Street, Bonifa

ybrid Luxury Compact, the CT200h

arrival of the CT200h F Sport. This is the first time F Sport, Lexus skunk works performance division responsible for the IS-F and the LFA, has set foot on Philippine shores. F-Sport used their extensive experience building hyper cars to breathe a new character into the CT200h, endowing it with newly developed lateral performance dampers that provide added stability and increased chassis rigidity without any compromise in refinement, ride comfort, or luxuriousness.

As the night came to a close, and the trio of David Pomeranz, Zsa Zsa Padilla, and Pops Fernandez belted their last melody, the CT200h stood proud and took its place on stage, alongside the star-studded cast, proving without any doubt that Lexus is the leader in luxury full hybrid technology.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Honor

EDITORIAL

QUESTION: WHICH is the best business school in the country today?

Answer: The Philippine Military Academy.

This is a joke being circulated in text messages and being retold in coffee shops in the wake of the revelation of some generals' and colonels' corrupt practices and scandalous deals in recent Senate and House hearings.

The joke may be realistic because the great majority of the PMA graduates in the Armed Forces of the Philippines are honest and incorruptible, but some bad eggs who, according to revelations in congressional hearings, took advantage of their official positions to amass fortunes, have tarnished the name of the PMA.

The development of character is one of the crucial aspects in the education and training of a PMA cadet. It is a fundamental objective which the academy tries to achieve through the Honor Code and the Honor System. A PMA cadet binds himself to the Honor Code which says: "We, the cadets, do not lie, steal or tolerate among us those who do so." Their motto—which stresses their core values—is "Courage, Integrity and Loyalty."

The Honor Code says: A PMA cadet does not lie. He always tells the truth regardless of the consequences. He does not cheat. He does not defraud others, nor does he take undue advantage of them. A cadet does not steal. He does not take the personal property of another without the latter's consent.

PMA cadets bind themselves to these rules while in the academy but later, as officers, as they rise in the military hierarchy, do they all remain truthful, trustworthy and honest?

The motto of the United States Military Academy at West Point (after which the PMA is patterned), is "Duty, Honor and Country." Maj. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, who was once superintendent of West Point, gave the rationale of the Honor System in a speech: "[T]he (secure) or untruthful soldier riffles with the lives of his fellow men and the honor of his government." Thus, he said, the Honor System has its roots both in ethical considerations and in practical military necessity.

He would think that "courage" (including moral courage), "integrity" and "loyalty" are the three words that should be foremost in the minds of PMA cadets, not only when they are in the academy but even after they have left it and have embraced the profession of soldiery. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, called the American Caesar and one of the most famous West Pointers, said, "The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training—sacrifice." Because of their profession, when called upon by the circumstances, soldiers must be ready to sacrifice life itself.

But judging from the revelations in recent congressional hearings, some generals and other officers cannot even make the sacrifice of living on their legal salaries. They have theirs in the three words—courage (moral), integrity and loyalty (to the people)—to the winds. Instead, they have made wealth, luxury and self the governing words in their lives. Some have forgotten the essence of the PMA Code of Honor.

Some people, legislators among them, have called for the abolition of the PMA in the wake of the disgrace brought upon the academy by some generals who have allegedly enriched themselves in public expense. But we do not think it is the fault of the academy. The fault may lie in the officers, in the military system itself and in the temptations of procedures and practices that make corruption possible.

The reform will have to begin from the very top. For instance, the President should not have the power to order the disbursement of huge amounts of money to key generals to ensure their loyalty to him or her. The AFP should build a strong system of accountability to make sure that every peso allocated to it is spent for the very purpose for which it was budgeted. And other safeguards should be introduced to ensure that everyone keeps to the straight and narrow path.

The PMA has had a long and colorful history. It has been considered such a good training ground for military officers that other countries in Asia have been sending some of their cadets to it. But some generals, members of the older generation of PMA graduates, have given it a bad name. The remedy is not to abolish the PMA but to strengthen it and to reform the AFP and the bureaucracy to ensure that generals do not enrich themselves at the expense of the suffering taxpayers.

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History's epitaph

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

TO BE PHILIPPINES media star worth the $16m anniversary of the Edsa Revolt. Like Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution or Ukraine's Orange Uprising, people power in the Philippines approved subsequent without loss of a single life.

IN BLACK COMEDY, Alfred Jarry's bloody oppression of the Nameless Super-sprinting Monsieur Ranbull, who has ruled for 41 years, had warm receptions upon the set the premieres. The closer-cell... 171 in attendance... shots with revolvers, bullets, bayonets in Benghazi and other bawls are ongoing.

There quarter-of-a-century has present unfilled with a speed and could flow through point his. Since the Iranian Revolution of January, the region is ablaze. Revolts were anticipated in Tunisia and Egypt. It is ongoing in Libya and brewing in Bahrain, Morocco and Algeria, where Abdelaziz Bouteflika has held power since 1999.

Bearded imams in lone-demand restoration of opposite-clock modern, Islamic Bahrain offers diverse. Leaders from Saudi Arabia to Qatar watch with concern.

The old order of sclerosis, unsustainable poisons is crumbling, in that point was on Iran, site which overthrew Saddam Hussein-ized.

China Daweish incensed of Middle East unrest in its gagged media. Who pays now is the same that has the region's leaders... plus ever new million overseas Filipino workers...on again. (Yeah? And what follows after?

Oil accounts for more than 70 percent of Middle East exports. That wealth spat. "Arabs an eight" sales of bejeweled glut. But the "Islam-ist wealth presents a weakening picture," stressed the United Nations Arab Human Development report 2009.

Post-earlier: OECD studies determined to ever deficits in freedom, women's empowerment and knowledge. "There are formidable barriers to development."

Photos of jubilant homes and gold-plated toilets in prisons are "merely masked inherent weaknesses of many Arab economies. (That added.) Insecurity of countries and citizens," they indicated, reveal ingredients of which the people revolt.

PEDRO SAMSON produced some interesting economic data points. What government was doing for the rises Filipino having execution in China, he said, was "well and proper," but "with the respect to everybody, maybe some body should be freed."

Ramon recalled that during his term, when the the Commission can time, which acquitted the homicide the Philippines and Hong Kong, two of his officials, Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo and Labor Secretary Nieva Cortbac, resigned. "I but two good people, which I regained very much. But they couldn't be retained to get because they felt responsible."

But of course, Ramon added, the circumstances are different today. "This is the People's Republic of China with 1.4 billion people and No. 2 in the world in terms of economic clout, if not political clout also."

Well, first off, I do salute Romulo and Cortbac for what they did. Their behavior was rarely play case that other officials would do well to emulate. Particularly now the years where the typical behavior of public officials is to shift blame and point to one another as the source of the blunders, indeed particularly during the hostage crisis last year when government officials acted as a bigger comedy troupe, it is heartwarming to find someone willing to take responsibility as a matter of principle, as a matter of having been put in charge, whether directly or indirectly, that it is feeling that should be dismissed into the heart and mind of every public official of this country.

But in this case, who should resign and why?

In the text from the three Filipinos, along with scores of others, were arrested in China and sentenced to death over seven years ago, during Gloria's time. There are no officials from that government left to resign, though I wouldn't mind, and I think, that a great many of those responsible for crimes far worse than criminal negligence, in the very least, if the point is that today's government failed to pluck the three Filipinos from the jaws of death, the circumstances are only different today than in Cory-administration's time.

The Filipinos have nothing to do with the fact that we were dealing with a small country then and we are dealing with an economic superpower now. The differences have to do with the fact that the Commonwealth-era-raised semi-dotty about Communism-era gold while the case of the drug mules' home-country government only about the entire feeling deserving of death. In Commonwealth's case, a witness came out to say Communism was framed, which compelled us to negotiate allegations to extend a response just to make sure. In the case of the drug mules, no acknowledge the guilt, and we are merely pleading for the commutation of the sentence from death to life imprisonment.

Why should you blame government if it fails to get Chinese change in mind? Why should you blame China if it refuses to change in mind?

I agree that government should do everything in its power to save the lives of its nationals. I agree that government should extend a sheltering arm over the heads of Filipinos abroad, particularly the OFWs, this very source of this country's survival. But I do not agree that getting Filipinos off the hook, as off Death Row, is government's primordial task, the failure to carry out which constitutes grounds for dismissal. Is it a straightforward perspective on what government ought to be doing.

What government in fact should be doing is to respect the laws and customs of other countries, particularly the ones who are playing host to our OFWs. We may not demand from those countries things their mores or accommodate us. Murder and drug trafficking are the two crimes that in all civil countries merit the death penalty or, as the case may be, life imprisonment without parole. We may not consider catching murderers and drug traffickers to be a top priority, but other countries do. We may not consider summarily imprisoning people for merely possessing murderous and drug trafficking in the harshest possible terms, but other countries do.

More than this, when government in fact should be doing is to improve upon those going abroad the need to respect the laws and customs of other countries. What government should be doing is to tell them: "We are your government, it is your mores that keep us, we are more bound to extend to you all possible protections within our laws, all possible assistance within our power, all possible intelligence within our means, but we may not compromise our values. In turn, we expect you to respect the laws and customs of your host country. We love our absent close hospitality, you may not flout their ways. When you do, it is not merely that you put your possessions beyond the pale of our protection, it is that you disgrace your country along with yourselves."

Still more than this, what government should in fact be doing is making sure we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. How many times have we been told by the world, we do not export our families to earn money as our wealth. The problem is not that China is punishing drug mules with death, the problem is that we are producing drug mules in alarming numbers. The problem is not that China executes murderers, but rather that we produce murderers in such numbers. Our problem is that we are not searching for the why. That is shameful.

What is one more other countries to do, wait for us to host the conferences before doing something about the people those establishments are sending to their shores? What kind of message are we sending to the world? Self-care? Absolving about the crimes raging in our midst, our neighborhoods, our families? Is it so ridiculous of them as we are?

The all reasons for us try to save every Filipino from death. But let us try even harder to stop ourselves from creating it.

The confidence factor

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

SOMETHING IS happening to our economy that we haven't seen for the last 30 years, and it bodes well for our economic outlook in 2011. I refer to the way total investment (domestic and foreign, private and public combined) has been consistently growing at double digit rates in the last three quarters. For the full-year 2010, total investment spending (also known as gross fixed capital formation) grew by a lively 17 percent. This is a refreshing reversal after averaging only one percent growth in the last 10 years (i.e., we averaged zero investment growth in 2001-2007). That 10-year performance was the worst in our neighborhood: Malaysia averaged 3 percent, Indonesia had 4.4 percent, Thailand posted 6.4 percent, Vietnam 11.2 percent, Singapore 13.2 percent, Cambodia 15.5 percent, and Myanmar had 26.3 percent.

What is even more remarkable about our past year's investment performance is that the growth is now driven by private investments, whereas in recent years, it was government investments via public infrastructure projects that led the growth. To date—to these all-important to the National Income Accounts (our official GNP/GDP data), are available for reports to see, in recent years, private investments were mostly declining, with quarterly investment growth rates peppered with negative numbers. It's much more than just the push by the government's encouraging a large amount of public spending even in the face of declining revenue collection performance. The much-vaunted government initiatives in the last two years, which for the most part have been in the form of public-private partnerships, have yet to make their impact felt on the economy's broader performance.

The economy double-digit investment growth in the past four quarters suggests that something has changed dramatically in the climate for business this past year. I call it the confidence factor. Suddenly, a lot more investors—business firms and households—are committing large sums of borrowed or saved money to set up new businesses, expanding large ones on increased production capacities, and upping their stakes like they haven't done in some time. The announcements of large capital expenditure plans of major listed companies is yet another example of this newfound confidence.

It's important to note that this surge in optimism is coming even in the face of continued opposition from some on the prospects of the global economy. This calls to find the cause for confidence in our economy is somewhat in nature. It doesn't take much to figure out that it is the change in government in just that that has driven this wonderful confidence. Clearly, much is captured of the Aquino administration's ability to steer the economy to new heights of performance, with its promise of increased accountability and exciting path and corrupt-free government head-on. By all indications, it is the good governance that was missing before, the key to economic growth has been the driving force behind the newly-found growth in our economy.

But economic growth has been driven primarily by investment growth in consumption spending, fueled in large part by increased growth in remittances from our overseas workers.

But economic growth has been driven primarily by investment growth in consumption spending, fueled in large part by increased growth in remittances from our overseas workers.

Our economy, after all, supposedly posted record growth in recent years. But as many of us have lamented time and again, it is not growth but growth-and-jobs that we are after. What we have sorely needed is economic growth that reduces poverty by benefiting the wide majority of the 10 poorest people through the creation of jobs and livelihoods in the countryside as much as in the urban centers. Lack of such quality growth has been the undoing of the immediate past administration, for even as it boasted of a 30-year record high GDP growth, poverty was consistently during to watch. The percentage of poor Filipinos rose from 30 percent of the population in 2003 to 33 percent in 2006, and had apparently risen further to 37 percent in 2009 if the same methodology used for computing the one previous figure is employed. The official 2009 number is now much lower because the methodology for computing poverty has recently been "improved." The announced poverty in 2006 was consistent with the previous one under the new methodology, albeit not so drastic.

Is the growth we are now seeing under P-Noy more broad-based, and thus more inclusive and poverty-reducing? There are signs that it is. Between 2010 and 2011, 1.4 million jobs (i.e., in the hundreds of thousands) being generated to be applied rate and industry (especially manufacturing) are, in fact, in the services sector (accompanied the overwhelming bulk of the jobs, much of them in the informal sector or so-called underground economy). There is also evidence that the investment surge described above is coming from a wider spectrum of economic activities. Data on growth of investments in durable equipment show double digit growth in farm machinery, construction and mining equipment, office, computing and telecoms, mining equipment, transport equipment, telecommunications and sound recording equipment, and other industrial machinery.

The evidence of private confidence in the Aquino administration runs high, and it shows in the economy. The president is now on record as given that same confidence a well-deserved.

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E-mail: cielito.habito@gmail.com

Reproductive coercion

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT I DID long been a feminist mantra that violence against women, including partner abuse and rape and sexual aggression, is not about lust or desire, but more about repression and control.

In a report published in the Feb. 11 *New York Times*, a study found that men who abuse women physically and emotionally also have a penchant to "sabotage their partners' birth control, pressuring them to become pregnant against their will."

"Several small studies have described this kind of coercion among low-income teenagers and young adults with a history of violence by intimate partners," writes Times reporter Hazel Cary in Dallas. "Now a study of 1,300 women from 15 cities in the Fragile Families Violence Timeline says 1 in 4 women who agreed to answer questions after calling the hotline said a partner had pressured them to become pregnant, had refused to use birth control pills, or forced them to have unprotected sex."

Lisa Raine, director of health in the Family Violence Prevention Fund in San Francisco—described the findings of the study as "very eye-opening." "Even when you're dealing with a woman who is ambivalent, limiting sex without a condom, joking holes in condoms, flushing birth control pills down the toilet—

"There were lots of stories about hiding birth control pills, and she realized they're now hiding them."

One respondent said she had to hide in the bathroom to take her pill, while another said that when she got her period recently, her partner was "furious."

The findings are based on the responses of further callers to four questions, although everyone who called the hotline was referred to counseling and shelters. Devised by Dr. Elizabeth Miller, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine at the University of California, Davis, the questions were part of her ongoing studies on what she called "reproductive coercion."

• • •

ABOUT one-fourth of the respondents said yes to one or more of those three questions: "Has your partner or ex ever told you not to use any birth control?" "Has your partner or ex-partner ever taken off the condom during sex so that you would get pregnant?" "Has your partner or ex ever made you have sex without a condom so that you would get pregnant?"

One in six answered yes to the question: "Has your partner or ex-partner ever taken off the condom during sex so that you would get pregnant?"

"It's really important to recognize reproductive coercion as another mechanism for control in an intimate relationship," Miller said in an interview with Rabin. As for some of the results added, younger women and girls dating older men may be confused by the pressure to become pregnant.

"If you can put yourself in the shoes of a 15-year-old dating an 18- or 19-year-old man, what's in her an unusual scenario, and he says to her, 'We're going to make beautiful babies together, that's pretty seductive."

Sex killer could more research: are needed to understand the motivations

• • •

SOME may have an incense desire for a tattoo; barely, pointed out Miller, while "many who had been pressured to become pregnant by their male partners were adolescents."

Others, she added, "may be using pregnancy to keep a man, and for him not sure how long it's going to be around." Gang-affiliated young men may feel the need to colour with having babies from multiple partners.

The study says the report may help explain "why young victims of violence by intimate partners are at an increased risk for unplanned pregnancies and for sexually transmitted diseases."

That it also the reason conducting all forms of violence against women is among the elements of reproductive health, since the link between partner abuse and unwanted or coerced pregnancy has been done long before the study mentioned.

I don't know if any similar study has been conducted in the Philippine setting, but women share stories of when a hard time they have "negotiating" with partners or husbands when they express a desire to use contraceptives. Some have even been "warned" against use of their husbands' objections to pay being beaten up when the husband finds out they were abused with the prescription anyway. And I have talked to a lot of women who say they prefer to go for tubal ligation or vasectomy, not because they like the contraceptive, because they can control the situation from their partners, while they mean risk a daily confrontation when they go on the pill or use their partner to wear a condom.

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THIS is also the reason women have long agitated for methods of family planning that put contraception firmly in their hands. Perhaps this is why the push for reproductive health—and its main use the token when it comes to promoting an unwomen's agency.

It's all very well for celibate bishops and male politicians to condemn couples who practice family planning only but another thing for those clerics to be around when the man comes home drunk and horny or bathes broken promises for keeping his partner "barefoot and pregnant." The amount of violence that can be done in this direction. This may also explain the low rate of condom use in this country, since condoms are presumably a woman female method; by men, many of whom are not enthusiastic enough to prevent unless pregnancy when contraception is on.

That may explain, too, why male-dominated institutions have such a hard time acknowledging the right of women to decide freely if they want to get pregnant or not, and why they should use to protect themselves if they don't want to get pregnant at the moment. Withdrawing that right from women is also a form of reproductive coercion.

The start of something unprecedented

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

WE ALL "knew" Jaime Cardinal Sin called the people to Edsa exactly 25 years ago today. He he wasn't the first to do so, and it wasn't Ruso Aquino either, the first leader of the so-called "parliament of the streets" to bring a suicide-bodyguard to Camp Aguinaldo, where it was supposed to be protected by Marcos loyalists, armed to the teeth.

It was Juan Ponce Enrile, then the defense minister, and Fidel Ramos, then a lieutenant general and second-in-command of the Armed Forces, had revolted. A "coup d'etat" of close-range proportions, who rushed to the AFP headquarters to show their support and, once inside, found a reporter from Radio Veritas, who put them on the air.

In account 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, Minister of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos's spontaneous decision the kind of "moral support" the people could provide the military defenses, made the following appeal: "In obeying military [sic] duty, many are now undergoing untold hardship in order to protect the government from being taken over by communist-inspired military adventurists. The scale of threat against these soldiers must mean their utmost admiration demands. We can give a sense of unity from the countries of the people, who did not hesitate to risk their lives to defend our country, and demand severely replied: "Okay siguradin gan. Harang Bayan sa Pandakaan."

I got those details from Boyet—my daughter, who left for the University of the Philippines' Diliman campus that morning, on my bewildered beg about five years ago. (The occasion was the proclamation of the Jaime V. Ongpin Scholarship.) "Edsa 20," which remains available for viewing on the Internet, I responded to Chairman Ongpin's generosity in the following write: "Your father was a brave and generous man. Unfortunately I did not hear him that night, perhaps because he was simply ahead of his time. I mean, literally. If he made an appeal at 7 p.m. or so, Enrile and Ramos were still on his way to [an] 11 PM. Unfortunate [time of night, literal comparison to set] since enough of the [illegible] people to [illegible] Enrile and Ramos [illegible] Manila, at the intersection of new Avenue and Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, [illegible] Cardinal Sin."

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Fifteen in the New Yorker blog several days before Mubarak was ousted, George Packer paid John 1986 the high compliment of a matter-of-fact comparison: "In 1986, at the climax of the collapse of Ferdinand Marcos's dictatorship, Corazon Aquino and Enrile were still on his way to [an] 11 PM. Unfortunate [time of night, literal comparison to set] since enough of the [illegible] people to [illegible] Enrile and Ramos [illegible] Manila, at the intersection of new Avenue and Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, [illegible] Cardinal Sin."

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Entrepreneurship--t

BSA policies would where latino sans, nobody stories, you please answer provider doesn't charge you for data services since toys have an unlimited services plan, the President's seats of communications experts doesn't need a guide to know good manners, and my father would appreciate it if Sen Escudero is still interested of asking for P100 to buy something from time to time.

But also, this a reality, and unfortunately for him, I am less employed, anymore.

Within a span of one year, I resigned from my first job and my second—not exactly something you would want to write in one interview, but I say, did and I value my no-brainer more in terms.

My father has dealt with this dilemma, too, by asking "What's wrong?" and then moving on to talking to my mother about what I planned to do and finally to telling me, when I ask, "I don't have money" or "what do you need the money for?"

There are three golden rules you should know before starting your resignation. First, don't resign if you don't have a new job to go to. Second, don't resign if you don't have at least six months worth of savings to live on. Third, don't resign unless you have paid off your debts.

I didn't follow any of those rules and, had I been born in an America's reality, I probably would be now in the streets by now begging for spare change. I had no new job, and I am grateful. At 23 and without a job, no savings and saddled with debts, I am happy my mother has not pointed me pie.

What was the reason for my resignation? I resisted to be an entrepreneur. And like every kid whose parents own a business and who has the opportunity enacting her in his face, I said I wanted to learn the ropes of managing the family business.

It has not been easy. During our discussions, my mom said one of her misgivings was that I would lose my identity. To be honest, I couldn't understand it. How could I lose my identity by being in the business and handling the cash register?

But now, one month since my last day at work, I have realized what it truly means. I had the dream: a corporate e-mail address, my own local number, something to wake up for and something to go home from, people to deal with, a computer, lifetime hours, meetings to attend, a paycheck and a role to go after my name. And an answer to the question: What do you do?

But today, how would I answer that question? I am not an entrepreneur (at least not yet)—I do not create the business like thinkers of other entrepreneurs I have to admit that I didn't create the franchise—I just benefit from it.

When you leave your current employment, some of whom have been in the business longer and know how to run the business fewer than me, even without college diploma, I wonder what they see—a new, empowered boss or my mother's representative? I am not sure and I never intend to ask.

Who am I? I already had the details, below—don't we ask-ing what we want to be when we grow up? Now I am also faced with the question of what I want to be in terms

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Do the Marcoses care?

LETTERS

THOSE PROPONENTS to insert the cremation of President Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani can only save the procedures of Angelo Reyes who was too timid/guilty of anything. Marcos was found guilty by our people in 1986, driven out—and his ostentatiously paid billions of dollars in Swiss banks for the Marcos-Tantoco cartel, and billions of pesos in Roxas-ebuhi (garter), loans change in fix; there will be further payments on Feb. 28 at Club 59-spins-a-day! (and in Manila in 2003, made-in-cronie billions to government. On the Supreme Court, Marcos as Pelikan fascinates with wife Imelda as lame ducks in dark Swiss bars based accounts earned in 1946).

Reyes made the obnoxious form of apology per Japanese praxis. The Marcoses have yet to show remorse. The aria of the Gobelin may now be visited on their children, who may not be familiar with the location of governments for 36 years.

A locally and globally judicially conflicted kleptocrat and gross human rights violator for the Libingan ng mga Bayani only?

Ongoing Chief Justice Renato Corona who never met July 2003 decision finding the Marcoses as "ill-gotten" (no) without discussing the pronouncement of "20 patrons" found. He may be too old to be prosecuted now, given our sense of compassion, but what about her 100 victims in the Hilo Palace? Did PM driven their compensation be paid to the families of the victims in 1981?

My wife Dulce went public in June 1998 opposing any talk on Ferdinand Marcos' (late) plan to move Marcos to the Libingan and said she would propose to the family to move her to there's remains out of it. I am not as kind (for as a septuagenarian myself now. But what is the purpose of the Marcoses to do justice to the victims of gross and massive human rights violations? They don't care!

If moving PM to the Libingan is right, I have always said that right thing must be done in the right way at the right time and for the right reasons. Never apologized. Reclaimed it, now's a fantastic opportunity for people like Reyes to start apologizing to those who suffered during the martial law regime in particularly heinous ways, like the human rights victims in the area of Bulacan.

Per example, Germany paid for Hitler's atrocities; Chile paid for Allende's and the Libyan paper paid the Japanese-Americans interned unjustly during World War II the sum of $20,000, each with a letter of apology.

From savagery to decay for us? May we not have a civilized moment?

We have to work with the Marcoses for the sake and toward the reputation of our children.

—RENE SAGUISAG
rsaguisag@gmail.com

Angie defenseless against powerful detractors

THERE IS SO much more from on the line we do once who can truly appreciate the courage shown by Angelo Reyes in ending his life in pursuit of the ranch-loans he was subjected to in the Senate.

I am referring to the statements of a number of generals, both in the (fabled) and police, who said they could see the what Reyes did because it takes inner strength to do that. As they personally knew Reyes to be a man who would not really be cowed, they were moved that the "trial by publicity" he faced at the hearings of Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Antonio Trillanes and Jinggoy Estrada (and later Senator Manuel Villar,

Assistant Editor Tony Benjamin

Across the NATION

Mt. Bulusan ashfall reaches Masbate

By Ray Mandi, Mar Argustes and Joey Gan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SORSOGON CITY—At least 2,000 people living around Mount Bulusan fled their homes as the volcano spewed ash and thick smoke for 19 minutes over three towns on Monday.

The latest ash explosion, recorded at 9:12 a.m., was 3 kilometers high and accompanied by rumbling heard up to 10 km away in Juban town, said Eduardo Laguerta, resident volcanologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) in Sorsogon.

Ashfall spread to at least 10 km away in Masbate, Laguerta said.

Residents of Juban, Irosin and Bulan left their homes on board military trucks sent by the Army's 49th Infantry Battalion.

Classes suspended

Classes in all levels were suspended in the three towns, with most of the schools used as evacuation centers by affected families.

With the thick smoke and ashfall, visibility was zero to practically all affected areas up to Monday noon, Laguerta said.

The Phivolcs has reinstated alert level 1 in Bulusan, but it may raise the warning status if conditions worsen, Laguerta said.

Monday's explosion was the highest ash column recorded since Nov. 6, 2010, when the volcano spewed ash and steam, he said.

The Phivolcs described the source of the activity as "explosive/steam and ejection," indicating that more explosions may be building up at the volcano's crest.

Wet towels

Local officials of the affected areas did away with wetting for bees made to be distributed and instead called on radio stations to tell residents to use wet towels to avoid inhaling dust particles, according to information gathered from soldiers at the ground by the Army's 9th Infantry Division spokesperson, Maj. Harold Cabreros.

Thirty-eight students from Irosin and Bulan were reported to have suffered suffocation due to the thick ashfall and smoke, Cabreros said.

He said responding soldiers also received reports of power outages in the affected areas, aside from intermittent communication signals and restrictions of portable water.

Dozens of volcanic ashfalls were observed on Time Island in Masbate, while light ashfall was noted on parts of Ticlelan, establishments and houses in Masbate City proper at about 9:45 a.m., said Imee Delgado, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration center manager in the island province.

The Masbate City Health Office immediately distributed gauze surgical masks to residents, Delgado said.

COMMUNITY ART Schoolchildren caught for weeks in a play-tribal group perform as part of the activities of "Ipilik," a community art program organized by artists led by Kawayan de Guia and filmmaker Ferdinand Bulanog, at Burnham Park in Baguio City.

3 face raps for uprooting Bt eggplants

By Marivic Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—Two environmentalists and another woman are facing charges of malicious mischief for uprooting crops believed to be genetically modified (GM) on a University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) field trial site on Bay, Laguna.

Daniel Ocampo and Indiana Ali Abbas, both members of Greenpeace, and Ricky Morales, who was identified by police as a GMA engineer, were among at least 20 people who stormed the 1,000-square-meter trial site of the UPLB Institute of Plant Breeding on Thursday, according to Insp. Joseph Linsangan, San police chief.

Ocampo, a campaigner of Greenpeace's Sustainable Agriculture, said by phone on Sunday that the group's action aimed to prevent the contamination of non-GM crops planted together with the experimental Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) eggplants that were already flowering.

He said the team had dug up "three to four rows" of Bt and non-Bt eggplants before the university guards stopped them.

The uprooted crops were sealed in a bag and left at the site, he said.

Ocampo said the team was "invited" to the police station for questioning and was released before noon on Thursday.

Asked if they are taking any counter legal action, he said "we are willing to face the consequences. They are the ones doing most harm."

Kidnap try foiled in North Cotabato town

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato—Lumads and civilians foiled an attempt by four gunmen to kidnap a hardware store owner here following a shoot-out on Monday morning.

Citing intelligence reports, Col. Rey Galvez, chief of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion, said the kidnappers were planning to seize Frank Chiong, owner of FMR Hardware, on his way to work.

At about 1:30 p.m. on Monday, a pickup van with armed men on board parked in front of Chiong's store. One of the men alighted and walked slowly toward the store but was accosted by one of Chiong's escorts.

The man tried to resist or evade capture, which was already becoming tense. Midsayap police chief Insp. Frank Antito said, quoting witnesses. He was overpowered near a boarding house in front of Notre Dame of Midsayap College and was shot dead by policemen when he tried to take a hostage.

A bandolier of M-16 bullets was recovered from him, police said. His companions escaped in their vehicle.

Two civilians were hit by stray bullets but are already out of danger, police said.

Antito said the facility was one of five persons who tried to seize Chiong in November last year. The bodily harm could have worsened the kidnappers by feigning he was having a heart attack.

Police and Army chiefs in the province were immediately on alert following Monday's foiled kidnap attempt.

Galvez called on residents to remain vigilant amid threats of kidnapping on traders in North Cotabato's commercial district.

Also on Monday, communist rebels in Compostela Valley fired an Army Scout Ranger they took hostage on the eve of the resumption of peace talks between the National Democratic Front and the government.

The soldier, El Brian Collado, was freed in Barangay Sigan in Compostela town. He was seized in a New People's Army "checkpoint" in Barangay Tagboa-an Dacon-Diwalwal on Feb. 7. —Edwin Fernandez and Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

After 44 years, Gordon assassination still unsolved

By Tonnee Orejas
Inquirer General Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—For all the promises of the mayors that succeeded Leopoldo Eugenio Dan Sr. led for Olongapo City, justice still eludes him 44 years after his murder.

His assassination by a lone man on Feb. 20, 1967, is still without a convicting closure. Investigators did not reach a point where the masterminds were identified.

The gunman, Nestito Almonte, supposedly died in a reported prison riot a day before he was to tell all, Gordon's family members said.

"The powerful easily get away with crimes," said his son Richard, a former senator who ran and lost for president last year.

Gordon Jr. was in the hereafter of efforts of freeing Olongapo from the stranglehold of the US naval reservation, transforming it into a town and converting it shortly into a city under lightning conversion, illegal leagues, prostitution, gambling and prostitution syndicates.

With most of the suspects dead over the years, Richard said the family is contending with "clutter reality."

"Rizal, we can (The case is over)," he said after noting that most of the suspected participants or masterminds died in different circumstances. "I continue to try to find out (the details) and to try to champion the cause of other victims."

Year after year, the Gordon clan, friends and supporters pay homage to the city's founder, whose remains are kept in a tomb on a hillside cemetery 2 kilometers from the city proper.

"This was year 44 of fighting. He laid the foundations and vision for what Olongapo is now," said James Jr., the incumbent mayor.

JAMES GORDON SR.

Jim for Richard, the pain persists because justice has not come after all these times.

Richard got names at the back of his mind on who might have ordered the killing or subsequently benefited from it, but as a lawyer, he'd rather hash his suspicions with evidence.

Gordon Jr. was talking to a woman outside the paymaster's room at the City Hall when he was attacked. He died aboard the USS Repose, a US Navy hospital ship.

The Manila Times reports showed that four days after the murder, Olongapo police chief, Godofredo Magallanes, fled charges against seven people, including former city police chief Modesto Lawsons and Almonte, both then fugitives.

Inquirer sources in Zambales said Gordon's assassination could be best understood in the light of the political fiefdom that existed there in the province.

Some see it as the tip of a developing feud by dynasties, which started in as a new and brave player.

Richard said he ran into a tiff with Ferdinand Marcos because the late strongman committed the death sentences of people convicted for his father's death into life imprisonment.

This, he said, triggered this still unanswered question: "Who was the big fish that convinced Marcos to commute the death sentence?"

In an earlier tribute, Gordon's lawyer, former Sen. Jose W. Diokno, said of him: "He was born to an American father, chose to be a Filipino, raised his children as Filipinos, served his country as a Filipino and died a Filipino hero."

Bed-pushing for kids with cancer

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A retired Bank general employee is helping raise funds for cancer-stricken children here.

On Feb. 3, Patrick Murray, 67, pushed a hospital bed for 5 kilometers from the Capitol grounds to the Iloilo City Boardwalk to draw attention to the plight of the children and ask for monetary support to cover their medical expenses. He was accompanied by about 50 supporters and friends who carried yellow balloons and streamers.

A 3-year-old boy with acute lymphocytic cancer on the bed.

The group drew curiosity from commuters and pedestrians who stopped and watched despite a downpour.

"I hope that with this example many will be inspired to help the children," Murray said.

A native of Cork, Ireland, and former postal employee in London, Murray is married to Filipina nurse Tarsie Trapel Aime 2003. The couple has been living in Barangay Punta Siete in Tigbauan town, 23 km south of Iloilo City.

Murray was only 17 when he started his advocacy, looking sweetener campaigns, including having and bed-pushing. He said his motivation for the sick and needy grew when his wife, a hospital volunteer for 12 years, tending and cleaning patients during his free time every Sunday morning.

In 1988, he traveled 500 miles in London, covering some distances while pushing a bed, to help raise funds for bone marrow research. The campaign was able to raise 50,000 British pounds.

Two years later, he raised 2,500 pounds by bed-pushing in Ireland.

The bed-pushing in Iloilo, the first in the country, generated P23,000 in donations, said Dr. Ma. Socorro Montero, president of Mga Kaibigan ng mga Kabataang may Kanser (MKK). Among those who donated were Iloilo journalists.

"We are encouraged by the show of support and we have received more pledges and donations of late," Montero said.

Formed in 2007, the KKK is a group of doctors, health advocates and professionals helping children with cancer in Iloilo. They have been supporting the treatment of nine children with cancer, six of whom had died.

MURPHY Patrick Murray pushes a hospital bed in the streets of Iloilo City to raise funds for children with cancer.

THE CHAMBER OF MINES IS GROSSLY MISINFORMED ABOUT PALAWAN

PALAWAN'S WEALTH LIES IN ITS BIODIVERSITY

Palawan is the Philippine's last ecological frontier. Science has established 17 key biodiversity areas within the province that encompasses two world heritage sites and unique terrestrial ecosystems with high levels of endemism and expansive forest cover. The United Nations has declared it a Man and Biosphere Reserve.

THE LAW PROVIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF PALAWAN, BUT ARE THE PCSD AND DENR DOING ENOUGH TO ENFORCE THE LAW?

Palawan is globally important as a conservation priority, the reason why the Philippine Congress passed in 1992 a unique law called the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) that laid down key guiding principles for its sustainable development.

The SEP called for a total commercial logging ban and for a transition strategy that establishes all natural forests (whether old growth, secondary or residual) and the edges of intact forests as areas of maximum protection or core zones. Mining cannot take place in these areas. Unfortunately, all large scale and small scale mining activities have taken place and are about to take place in natural forests, watersheds and key biodiversity areas.

In December 2010, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) endorsed the operations of two large scale mining companies in a contentious area immediately adjacent to the Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) which can be considered as the buffer zone of the protected area. The MMPL is a protected area which covers 33 watersheds, where mining is specifically banned by the SEP law, the Philippine Mining Act and other environmental laws. The PCSD is aware that the SEP clearances haven't always guarantee commercially viable mining operations and will just facilitate further entry into the protected area.

There are three large scale mines operating in Palawan's forests. According to the PCSD, there are 439 pending mining tenement applications pending with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, covering approximately 742,458.30 hectares, or roughly 50% of the entire province. These applied areas cover old growth forests, protected areas, mossy forests and watersheds.

There are pending applications for exploration and large scale mining of marble and limestone in the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP), where the world famous underground river is found. In the municipality of El Nido, there are four mining applications.

If DENR was serious in implementing the law, why was it even allowing such applications in protected areas and watersheds? The DENR should deny outright such applications because the law does not allow mining in these areas. Why doesn't the PCSD reject the applications for SEP clearances over natural forests? Why has it instead sanctioned the reclassification of forest areas mandated for strict protection clearly to accommodate mining interests?

THE COSTS OF MINING OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS

The Chamber of Mines has cited the municipality of Bataraza, which hosts a large scale mining operation, as proof of the benefits of mining.

The classification of Bataraza as a first class municipality is not a barometer for determining the incidence of poverty in the area. The Poverty Mapping Study of the Peace and Equity Foundation in 2005 (which is based on the Palawan provincial government's Community Based Monitoring System or -CBMS) has identified the municipality of Bataraza as among the ten poorest municipalities of Palawan in terms of delivery of basic services, such as health, potable water and education services. **Likewise, the 2009 CBMS data of the Palawan provincial government shows that 59.44% of the total households in Bataraza have income below the poverty threshold.** Bataraza's own Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2009 to 2018) states "more than 75% of the households had no access to electricity and garbage disposal system, 58% had no access to water-sealed toilet facilities and almost 27% had no access to potable water supply..."

Until today, farmers in Bataraza complain of nickel-laterite pollution in their farmlands and continue to seek compensation. Water samples collected from water sources from within and surrounding the mine sites show the presence of heavy metals and hexavalent chromium in concentrations which would be considered dangerous to humans.

In order to facilitate the expansion of the large scale mining operations, nearby Mt. Bulanjao (an identified watershed area) was converted into a mineral reservation through an amendment of the land use plan and zonation in the municipality.

LARGE-SCALE VS. SMALL SCALE MINING: IS THERE REALLY A DIFFERENCE?

The Chamber of Mines asked that small scale mining and large scale mining operations are different in their nature, that large scale mining is "responsible" and that DENR monitoring is "extremely rigid". The track record of these large scale mining operations and the monitoring standards of the DENR speak for themselves. From Marinduque to Albay and other large scale mining areas in the country, mining accidents like the spillage of mine tailings in Marinduque and the cyanide spill in Rapu-rapu, Albay are good examples of what so-called compliance monitoring and responsible mining are all about.

At the same time, Palawan has witnessed how small scale mining activities have resulted in pollution, displacement of farmers and loss of livelihood.

Mining has imported peace and harmony among local communities. Processes on local government endorsements and Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of concerned indigenous peoples have been marred with manipulation and corruption.

ON THE MATTER OF DR. GERRY ORTEGA'S MURDER

The Chamber of Mines has decried unnamed groups it claimed had linked mining interests to the killing. Just a bit closer than subtle name and articles have described Dr Gerry as conservationist-oriented and anti-mining, the civil society groups have not blamed nor spread any disinformation on the role of mining in the death of Dr Gerry. Our quest is to let the trial of the case reveal the truth and commit the mastermind, as there are former government officials and personnel who's now placed accused.

PALAWAN AND KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS SHOULD BE NO-MINING ZONES

The Chamber of Mines has insisted that mining in Palawan is permitted by national law and argues that areas not suited for tourism and not covered by primary forests can and should be mined. But doing it in the country's key biodiversity areas means putting the world's legacy at grave risk.

The Chamber of Mines must realize that Palawan is no ordinary place. They must appreciate the unique biogeographic character of Palawan and its people. After all, this is part of our national heritage.

Save Palawan MOVEMENT
www.no2mininginpalawan.com

PSA Awards: Pacman guest of honor, keynote speaker

By Cedrik P. Tupas

FILIPINO #1 BIG hero Manny Pacquiao will dip into another role when the Philippine Sportswriters Association holds its annual awards night next month.

A recipient of top honors in the past PSA awards, the hitting-type congressman will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker this time in the event organized by Coca-Cola on March 9 at the Manila Hotel.

Pacquiao, a five-time PSA Athlete of the Year who was enshrined to the PSA Hall of Fame, will be the guest of honor at the annual event, which will honor the country's top sports achievers of 2010.

It will mark only the first time in the 63-year history of the PSA that an active athlete will be honoring the awards.

Pacquiao bats left Mike Alvarez of his controversial split decision victory over Brandon Rios of the United States.

Alvarez is the only fighter to have scored a knockdown on the Filipino ring icon in his 54-fight career.

Pacquiao, who has been installed as the No. 1 pound-for-pound fighter in the world by ESPN, is the only seven-time world titlist in as many weight classes.

Pacquiao was also awarded the Athlete of the Decade by the PSA last year.

Pacquiao confirmed his attendance to the awards gala recently during the press conference announcing his May bout with American Shane Mosley in the United States.

Aside from the gold medalists Mr. Lakdat, Hidilyn Diaz and Dennis Orcollo and billiards Hall of Famer Francisco "Django" Bustamante will share the limelight in this year's glitz affair as they will be honored as Athletes of the Year.

Also on the honor roll are the highly popular Philippine men's football team, which will receive the PSA Team of the Year Award, and Azkals team manager Dan Palami, who will be honored as Executive of the Year.

The active medalists in the list Asiad and the world champion men's pentamer team head the 34 personalities to be given a major award, while the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines is the 50-year sports association of the year.

Billiards icon Efren "Bata" Reyes and the late Pancrasio Campomanes, former Palo pro-ahead, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. International ring referee Carlos Padilla and coaching great Virgilio "Boy" Dolapao will be honored with Lifetime Achievement awards.

PSA list of members

PACQUIAO

PH lobbies for 5 events in Indonesia SEA Games

By Jane Navarro

THE PHILIPPINES will ask for the inclusion of at least five sports in the calendar of the 2011 Southeast Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia, and lobby for the deferring of some disciplines to next year.

PH chef de mission Cito Loyzaga mentioned swim, rugby, handball, field hockey and baseball as some of the sports they would campaign for when key sports officials attend the SEAG Federation Council meeting on Feb. 25 in Bali, Indonesia.

LOYZAGA

Loyzaga, a vice president of the Philippine Sports Commission, said he would also ask the federations to make a live-drawn and disciplines they think should form part of the SEAG calendar on Nov. 11 to 25.

Loyzaga will meet with the various POC committees before joining the Bali trip together with Philippine Olympic Committee chair Mercito Pacunayen. POC first vice president Monico Lopez, who recently praised Secretariat and executive board members for their contacts—on Thursday.

"We will discuss the lobby countries of the SEAs on Wednesday," said Loyzaga.

"At this point, we are concerned about the sports that we want to be included and the sports that we think should be out of the list," he added.

There are 44 sports scheduled in the Indonesia SEAG, including 242 events, but the hosts are planning to drop PH gold mine fields, marathon, women's soccer and some events in shooting, cycling and sailing.

Replacing these disciplines are bridge, pane gliding, roller-skating, multi-challenge and the Vietnamese martial art vovinam, according to reports.

Bustamante said an event should have at least four participating countries to be included in the calendar. He added that any sports disqualified in the SEAG council meeting could be final.

"We have to review what events to propose and events not to include," said Bustamante. "I believe the host country cannot add more sports as the objective is to replace some of the sports where we have little chance of winning a medal."

Meanwhile, Loyzaga said nobody from the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas has reached out to him and offered the executive director post to be vacated by Rob Jaworski.

Jaworski's resignation over the weekend brought up a short list of candidates, including Loyzaga, former PBA commissioner Noli Socorro Bautista and SBP deputy executive director Bernie Bustamante.

Bautista, who has served as commissioner of Montreal could be living on a longer lead for not taken the wrong route.

He slugged it out early with the cheap, circulating Filipino Flash.

He was four more, but Montiel shouldn't be accused the number two of the four-starting dozen for his broken digging for the ball.

Montiel was, in fact, already being out-punched in the first round.

But he pushed on blindly trying to get to the ball in the second round.

* * *

He did grass Bautista's three.

But, in the process, the over-eager Montiel left his jaw open.

An ear-sharp left hook, a counter shot delivered with clinical precision, toppled Montiel.

Of course, Montiel did not only stay on the floor.

He was visibly in orbit as he contained there, his arms pushed over his head, eyes rolling wildly like tiny dancing suns.

* * *

It was a gory scene straight out of great cockfights, minus the acclaimed and accomplished artist Danny Sobrado.

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Jessie Kicker Greg Slaughter and Jayson Aldrich Ramon have refused commitments to fulfill with Alvarez and Pia Ramirez E.

"But we're all excited to see return and to the PBA. This season will be begin to open off," said Tia, a former Ateneo standout.

Jamet Gilas is using the PBA experience to sharpen its skills for the Fiba Asia Championship in Wuhan, China, on Sept. 10 to 25. The champion in the 16-nation tournament earns a ticket to the 2012 London Olympics.

"Especially that we want to be high-spirited. We know it will be tough playing in the pros but we're confident we can hold our own," said Smart Gilas manager Ivanke Lim.

Sharon Combo, meeting President Aquino's signature to secure his Filipino citizenship, could explain the shocked news with his team-mates at Ateneo tomorrow, the experts of other teams, all of whom stand are taller than 6-10.

"I'm sure we'll be toughened up by the games in the PBA. It will help us a lot in our preparation," said Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman.

Another member of the team are veteran captain Mark Barroca, Rhoeo Candoi, Mac Steward, Jason Ballesteros, Chris Lutz and Dylan Ababou.

HANGAR Dennis pigtayed his a return up for Smart Gilas win Phil-size

Smart Gilas shows might vs pro teams

By Jane Navarro

REPRESENTATION came up against with top PBA ballhelds, Smart Gilas Philippines showcased their cage skills in the past as the national squad for granted by the PBA Governor's Cup.

Smart Gilas defeated the Alaska Aces, San Miguel Beermen, Meralco Bolts and Barangay Ginebra Kings into a draw, an acquaintance sign of things to come when the homegrown begin their tune-up tilts in the league against the Talk N' Text Tropang Texters at the Fausto Center on Friday.

"We're looking good, we haven't lost a game yet in four non-cup matches against PBA teams," said Smart Gilas tactician Chot Tio.

Rammel Jose Wangsaw in the Dallas basketball last season will be the first to be thanked instead. The gunner's not that their only concern are the minor injuries bugging some of the teammates and players' academic commitments.

The said point guard JV Casio beat his groin and remained doubtful on Friday's game while 6-foot-10 center Ranidel de Ocampo got his complaints on a sprain from the knee injury he sustained before the Guangzhou Asian Games in November.

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Manny Pacquiao heir—and something more

BARE EYE

Brevab Jrtrendaid

Del Monte hinges bid on teen ace

Django, Bata prevail

By Cedrik P. Tupas

Pinoy page A14

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Langer rules Ace; Miñoza rises with 65

NAPLES, FLORIDA—Bernhard Langer shot a 6-under-par 66 Sunday to set a tournament record 20-under 196 total and win the ACE Group Classic by four shots over Fred Funk.

Filipino ace Frankie Miñoza finally found his rhythm to tally one of three 65s for the day and climbed to a share of 32nd to 35th places at 213-6 (The Open).

The 53-year-old Miñoza, who struggled in the first two rounds with a 74 and 76, respectively, birdied at the back with an eagle on No. 14 and birdies on Nos. 15, 16 and 17 for a 31.

Endowed by an opening bogey, Miñoza birdied Nos. 2, 6 and 7 for a 34 going out.

The 53-year-old Langer held a four-stroke lead going into the final round. Funk got within two after Langer bogeyed No. 15, but Langer came right back with birdies on Nos. 12 and 14. He finished with a 5-footer for birdie on No. 16.

"It's always exciting winning," said Langer, who earned his 14th Champions Tour win. AP

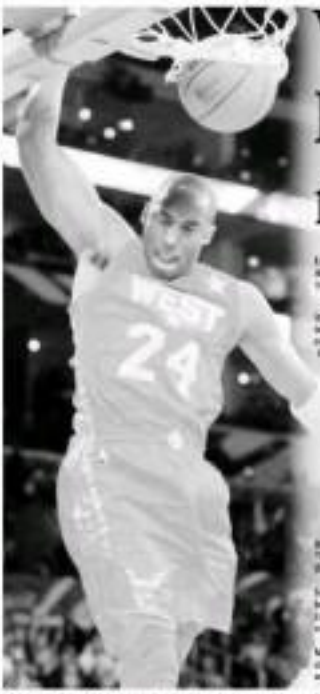
SCUAA Olympics underway today

A TOTAL of 309 state universities and colleges from 14 regions will see action in the 2011 SCUAA National Olympics which gets underway today at the Mohamc Sports Complex in Bagac, Bataan.

More than 5,000 athletes and officials are represented to 14 events in the week-long event organized by the Philippine Association of State University Athletics Directors (Pasuc). Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy III formally welcomed the participants yesterday.

Championships will be contested in athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, chess, dancesports, football, lawn tennis, squash, taekwondo, softball, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis and volleyball.

The province also hosted the Palarong Pambansa in Baguio in 1993. Jimmy B. Salcedo, Correspondent



LOS Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant wears the crown as runners-up after scoring 37 points and a fourth All-Star MVP trophy.

West thwarts East; Bryant nails 4th MVP

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant scored 37 points and equaled a record with his fourth All-Star game Most Valuable Player award, leading the Western Conference to a 148-143 victory over the East on Sunday.

"I feel like we have a sense of responsibility and we are used to that when we do play on this stage, which is play hard," Bryant said. "And we come here, that's what the fans want to see. They want to see us go at it and see us compete and that's what I try to do."

Returning to the game he dominates after a one-year absence, Bryant added 14 rebounds in a spectacular performance in front of the usual celebrity-filled crowd that turns out to see the Lakers at Staples Center.

"It feels great, being at home here and playing in front of the home crowd," Bryant said after receiving the 0999 trophy. "Thirteen! But my last All-Star game in front of these fans, so it's good to do it."

Both teams seemingly preferred no defense for much of the night, finding fists on fast breaks and clearing a path for his dunks...a party these days for Bryant, who prefers to conserve the banner in his aching knees.

"Everyone wanted him to get the MVP," said Miami's Dwyane Wade, last season's MVP. "He earns one very aggressive, as opponents as we were anybody in an All-Star game."

Kevin Durant chipped in 34 points, scoring five straight after the fans cut a 17-point deficit after three quarters to two points with 2:30 to play. The NBA scoring leader added the clinching free throws after the foul got him with three in the final seconds.

LeBron James powered the East rally, finishing with 29 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists to join Michael Jordan as the only players with a triple-double in the All-Star game. Amare Stoudemire also scored 29, but Wade had to leave with an ankle injury after scoring 14.

Plenty of Hollywood A-listers were sitting courtside, but Bryant's popularity here can steal most of them. This week, he became the first athlete to have his handprints and footprints put in concrete outside Hollywood's famed Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

Always more about Kobe than his, Bryant had 21 points by halftime, posting his halftime to Will Chamberlain's record from 1962, the year of his 100-point game.

"You could tell he wanted to get the MVP," Wade said, "and he wanted to get the MVP badly. He's a competitor and, "He was not just passing the ball, at all. But that's Kobe."

And when the East made it close in the third quarter, Bryant doubled over a cheating James who was going for the block, then rushed a three-pointer to make it 96-79.

Carmelo Anthony scored eight points to his ostensible goodbye as the West swam. The weekend was dominated by talk of a potential trade to New York or New Jersey, and the Denver Nuggets forward appeared at times extremely entertained and annoyed by the constant questions. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Beach sports in PSA Forum

BEACH SPORTS headline today's guests in the PSA Forum at Shakey's-UN Avenue in Manila starting at 10 a.m.

Coach Nes Digalakis, chief executive officer of Smart Gilas and Philippine (TSP), will explain the nature of the sports and at the same time, promote the coming Beach Youth Football Rugby tournament this coming summer.

Completing the panel of guests in the session aired live over its 98.7 Sports Radio FM station are members of Pinguin, Dolfan Bakery and Shakey's, are former PSC commissioner Tecla Afuada and the public-parents to this year's sparkplug of the Petron Ladies Beach volleyball tournament.

Karting clinic on March 6

THE SEARS-FOX the most batch of racing heroes under the Philippine Karting Championship at the Fairies' discovery program holds its karting clinic on March 6 at the Carmona Racetrack in Cavite.

It's the first in a series of karting clinics for young racing enthusiasts aged 7 to 13 years old who aim to live up their racing dreams.

Applicants must not exceed the maximum height of five feet and a maximum waistline of 30 inches. The clinic includes basic skills and hands-on training. Registration fee is P3,500.

Interested parties may register online at www.philkarting.com or www.pcu.com or call Arbor and Ida at 0917 5067580, 291 7580/8894 and 8777 788 loc. 203 or 206. The clinic is made possible by Fusion Racing School, Automobile Association Philippines, Skoda and Pena Motorsports.

PC Gilmore tryout

PC GILMORE, one of the 14 teams that will see action in the newly formed Development League of the PBA, will hold a two-day tryout starting tomorrow at the Ronac gym on Santolan cor. Bridges Ave. in San Juan.

The tryout is set from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Young boxing stars born every weekend

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sen Sarmiento

VIA ROSA, LAGUNA—Manny Pacquiao and Brandon Donaire are two right shining lights on the world boxing stage. But they also had three early days as struggling wannabes, rising to take on anybody to become superstars in their chosen livelihood.

As I arrived for engineer Ariel Anajo's fight card here yesterday, I sensed I was near to meet some of three eager boxers.

Anajo's Sonnenski outfit is a relatively new stable and boxing promotion team. Some fighters we have not seen yet were ready to climb into the weekend promotional boxing ring, modest to climb the body crowd of about 1,500 and a television audience to boot.

Mr. Hess is one of the most progressive cities in the country with most folks gainfully employed with the car manufacturers, cell phone giant and Technological Engineers to the core. It is a bustling city still on energetic public market and roads vying for the attention of the weekend crowd.

Some of those weekend throng-mobs into a carnival basketball event set up for a boxing night. When we arrive late in the afternoon, youthful amateur fighters using borrowed head gear and gloves thrill the crowd with feats of courage atop the ring. The crowd seems to favor the young pugilists and roars in excitement when the action picks up.

The evening fights mostly joined the tournament undercard with some well-known names in the country's boxing scene.

Jerry Tomogdan, a former Philippine Olympian and Team Captain of the Philippine Olympic Team, is the head coach of the Sonnenski boxing team. Tomogdan's 28-year-old Pinoy boxer was the former WBO Youth Asia Pacific Flyweight title against John Paul Jeamero of the Alpas Jaro stable via unanimous decision. Jerry climbed into the ring to celebrate the victorious fight and had an unexplained layoff since his last fight in March last year.

There seemed to be no lost in Jerry's arsenal as he displayed a wicked left hook and other reasonably-honed skills. After outpacing Jeamero with a knock down in the first round, Jerry repeatedly held off Jeamero's aggressiveness to counter that initial drawback.

Jerry connected a small cut on the right side of the bridge of his nose and fired away with precision.

Hess started losing at 14 and at stood in Lucena in November 2008 from Zamboanga del Norte. "Maging Cho ko ronan! would champion pa!" he inhibited to the reporter just after the fight. Jerry's agent-manager and confidante in their punching accuracy is somewhat but has to build up his speed.

Francis is diamond in the rough who could be harnessed to become another big name. What he needs is further top flight training and some swell dreams fights against worthy opponents to expose him more to the local and international fight industries.

He battles a youth champion now but to raise the older boys on the block won't cost much about it and will test Francis' true what it takes to be a really tragic fight.

URCC Baguio tourney: Banario, Agapito rip tough foreign rivals

HONORIO BANARIO and Arnold Agapito dominated their foreign counterparts in the Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC) Call-61 Baguio III tournament held Saturday at the Baguio Convention Center, boosting their bids for slots in the Philippine armada team.

Though Banario is noted for his takedown skills, it was his striking that enabled him to outfox submission-ever Iranian Kiaei Jabbari. He nabbed his victorious feat with deadly blows to win in the first round of their two-round, 10-minute contest.

Agapito, one of the rising stars from Kalinga, Apayao, scored a technical knockout win over Holland's Mario Bouwmeester.

The Guiness Pigeongs of the famed Kayong Lakay gym hosted to the third foreign fighter in the tournament, Japanese Ken Mark "The Iceman" Shingo. Shingo beat Pinjongar by two-sided choke to their featherweight duel.

BANARIO

Agapito's win ended Pinjongar's two-game winning streak in the mixed martial arts (MMA) tournament.

Also scoring first-round victories were Ogay Dino, Adam Cuong Thanh Banario, Jerome Pitlonon, Ethen Dimpugan, Jr. and Vale Ilagan. Jamaal Mermithal, Contributor

NCA leaders do battle

INCUMBENTS IN the National Cockers Alliance Cocker of the Year race will go head to head today in the NCA's seventh derby of the Quezon Sports Arena in Pasay City.

The derby is hosted by some of the biggest names in Philippine cockfighting: Andy Albano and Jimmy Ang, Efren Cardoz and Amador and Cesty and Alex Pandoron.

Jerry Ramos leads the race, but will have tough competition from fellow pacesetters Vic Cruz, Robert Up Chang Bella Cruz, Arman Ramos, Bobby Magboro, Arnold Hendrina, Gonzalo Cuevas, Efren Cardoz, Eddie Gonzales, Jimmy Asuncion, Rudy Albano and Jun Tupaen.

Other NCA members who are participating include Brgy. Ugu lawyer, Elmer Sinpatuncuan, Boss Medina, Jerbot Nuna, Bobby Cuevas, Jun Cuevas, Jerry Ang, Efren Cardoz, Jo Finares, Jun Mendiana, Roger Jones, Danny and Joel Nivas, Patrick Antonio, Benny Lim, Eric dela Rosa, Bhabe Villaluz, James Up, Efren Magano, Ben Jones and Ramon Pinto.

The NCA is one troubled source, the NCA remains as the largest and most prestigious association of gamefowl breeders and cockers in the country. Today's derby is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexion.

GRANDEN AWARD - Philippine Collegiate Champions League chair Bey Gandeza (right), presents the "Grenier Award" to Lyceum, representative athletes director Mark Cabuang (second from left), team manager Andrea Laurel and coaches Bonnie Tan and Chris Bernal. The award goes to the team that consistently made it to the Seven 16 and passed through the usual games for the past three years.

PHA holds MacArthur Open race

THE PHILIPPINE Hunting Pigeon Association (PHA), headed by president Jesus Lim of Interim Builders and Advanced Hobbyist Ltd., will host the 73rd-year MacArthur National Open Race next year.

The event, part of the 2012 PHA South Race, is considered the most prestigious racing pigeon competition in the country and is patterned after long distance national races in Europe. It will cover an air distance of approximately 650 kilometers.

Aside from PHA, the other participating clubs are UBE, PEL, QBPC, UPI, BPPC, NPPI, MMRR, SUPRA, NELTEX, MVFC, HOPE, GBPC, PPSC, GPPC, PMPI, among others.

PHA had patented the oldstep pigeon bust ring and nose bus marketer rights through one of the Philippine Racing Pigeon distributors, and, was to import the industrial design of the oldstep pigeon foot ring.

The PHA was established in 1950 by finders Chua and was affiliated with the American Racing Pigeon Union the same year.

Chua purchased racing pigeons from the United States, France and Belgium from 1945 to 1957.

For inquiries, visit PHA racing chair Silvino Chua at their clubhouse in Sucat, Sta. Mesa.

La Salle captures third intercollegiate golf title

DLSU-Dasmariñas' Ryan Ramos hands over the Most Valuable Player trophy to Jeremy Lo of La Salle-Bacolod after the Green Archers' 3-stroke victory in the Collegiate Golf Championship at Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Ramos, a 4-handicapper, finished with a 1-over 73 to win the individual title. Ramos' teammate Jeremy Lo of La Salle-Bacolod finished with a 74 to settle for second place. Lo's

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SPORTS

Real Thrills!

Azkals start training in Baguio

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By Cedell P. Tupas

THE NATIONAL men's football team opened training camp for the second leg of its AFC Challenge Cup duel with Mongolia in Baguio City yesterday with the coaching staff led by German tactician Hans Michael Weiss putting emphasis on sharpening the squad's finishing in front of goal which was left wanting to prove costly.

Azkals team manager Dan Palami said, aside from getting the players used to the cold weather, the training patterns in preparation for the Mongolia game on March 15 will also be focused on improving the squad's attack.

Weiss had rued the missed chances of scoring more in the 2-0 first leg victory in Bacolod two weeks ago with the Azkals, for all their possession, failing to add to their advantage as Ian Araneta hit the post twice and several others missed a host of opportunities in front of the goal.

Palami said the Azkals won't be just preserving their lead in the second leg as they will be played to show positive combinations despite losing set at 1 p.m., the hottest time of the day in Clark base.

"It was one more team, first we will do it," said Palami. "Definitely we will not just defend against them."

The Azkals will play a tune-up match on Wednesday against a select group of players based in Baguio. Another tune-up match is scheduled Saturday.

The Azkals aren't complete yet in Baguio with several foreign-based players, including goalkeeper Neil Etheridge, Rob Gier Ray Jonsson, Filipino-Danish standouts Jerry Lucena and Dennis Cagara, still with their clubs in Europe.

Brothers Phil and James Younghusband are already with the squad in Baguio, along with skipper Aly Borromeo and regular names Anton del Rosario, Chieffy Caligdong and Simon Greatwich, Caligdong and Phil Younghusband scored the goals against Mongolia.

Jason de Jong, the Netherlands-born midfielder, is still in Indonesia trying out for teams in the Indonesian Super League.

Contrary to earlier reports, the 20-year-old De Jong, a defensive midfielder, has not signed up with Telstjarna FC, after failing to impress Bhayangkara coach Sue Bakri.

The Ajaxnes trial but failed to convince De Jong, who will also undergo a trial with another DI club, Persiba Balikpapan, according to Indonesian football website Indonesia.com.

The Azkals are also scheduled to undergo a one-week camp at the Japan Football Association training facility in Fukushima, before they go to Mongolia for the second leg of the qualifying series.

Philippine football federation president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta said he will request the JFA to also schedule a tune-up match for the Azkals, who vow to preserve their unbeaten Bacolod finish in the AFF Suzuki Cup last year.

Del Monte hinges bid on teen ace

By Mayong B. Castillo

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—There's so much expected of Del Monte in the 64th Philippine Airlines Interclub Men's championship starting tomorrow, and most of them falls squarely on the shoulders of a 17-year-old.

With the Cebuano Ingco-designed gem inside a red pineapple plantation-boasting the pineal five-and-third rounds, the hosts are labeled as the favorites to nail a second title and it will all depend largely on how Clyde Hamilton fares.

"I just want to play and contribute as much as I can," Hamilton, a shy smiley master's son, told the keyman in Filipino in a recent interview, unmindful that he is spearheading a very young team that will try to emphasize a remarkable 2009 victory over Cambodia.

DEL MONTE, A1 ▸

Aplus METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Glaraday

DID YOU KNOW

LAST year, almost 44 percent of the fatalities in Metro road accidents were drivers. Forty-one percent were pedestrians while about 15 percent were passengers, according to Island Metropolitan Manila Development Authority statistics. **Schalr Gonzalo, Inquirer Research**

BASED ON A TIP

Kidnap gang member nabbed with victim's vehicle in QC

By Julie M. Aurelio

A SUSPECTED member of a kidnap group was arrested on Saturday after the police received a tip that he was using a car that had been taken from one of the gang's victims.

Arvie Dela Cruz, 30, a security guard, was picked up by the police at his sister's house in Gumisa Compound in Batasan Cabo, Quezon City. He was arrested with a gun.

Upon questioning, he confessed his involvement in the kidnapping of two children and their family driver last month. The police, however, would have link him to another case.

Supt. Marcelino Pedroso of the Quezon City Police District's Batasan station said that an undercover told them that Dela Cruz was using a car which had fake license plates.

When the security guard was placed under surveillance, the police confirmed that he was driving a gray Toyota Corolla with license plate UDS-364.

On Saturday, a police team led by Chief Insp. Wilfredo Sibiano accosted Dela Cruz as he was coming out of his house. They frisked him and found a gun and hand grenade in his possession.

He was brought to the police station where an examination of his car showed that it belonged to a Chinese-Filipino businessman's wife, Madaleen Ong, who was kidnapped in December last year.

The 22-year-old victim was eventually released after her family paid P5 million in her capture.

A check with the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response showed that the victim had indeed been kidnapped while she was driving to work in a Toyota Corolla.

The Quezon City police later contacted the victim who positively identified Dela Cruz as one of her abductors.

"She likewise identified the Toyota Corolla recovered from Dela Cruz as the car that had been stolen from her. The car used to be red but it had been painted gray," Pedroso said.

Upon questioning, Dela Cruz admitted that he was a member of a kidnap group which had two former military men as members. He identified them only as Bryan and Ferdi.

He denied, however, that he was involved in the kidnapping of the woman Ong.

According to Dela Cruz, he was involved only in the abduction of two minors and their family driver in Barangay Sauyo, Quezon City.

The children—a 9-year-old girl and a 16-year-old boy—were on their way to school on Jan. 31 when armed men took over their vehicle.

The victims were released after the children's family paid a ransom of P1.5 million.

Dedicated, sporting Dela Cruz, said Bryan and their bad behavior that first before they asked him to join their group.

The security guard said he thought at first that the gang was just involved in robberies.

He also told the police that he was angry

READ FULL STORY A2

More raps filed vs Mendoza's kin

By Jaymee T. Gamil

EFREN GREGORIO Mendoza, the brother of slain hostage-taker former Senior Insp. Rolando Mendoza, has been charged with being an accomplice in last year's Aug. 23 hostage-taking at the Quirino Grandstand which left eight Hong Kong tourists dead.

"The said accused, knowing the criminal design of his brother Rolando Mendoza in taking as hostages inside the bus 21 Hong Kong nationals, including five minors and four staffers of a Philippine travel agency, detaining and depriving them of their liberty and then and there willfully, unlawfully and feloniously cooperate in the execution of the offense of serious illegal detention," Assistant State Prosecutor Vivian M. Banzuela said in the information he filed with the Manila Regional Trial Court on Friday.

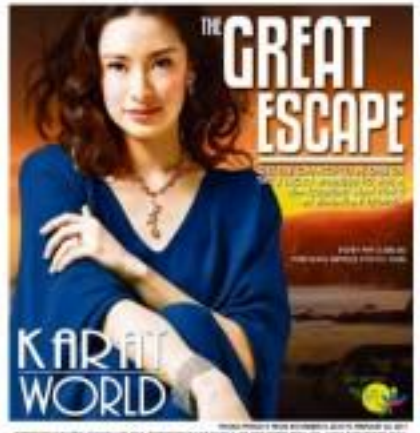
Banzuelaa, who is also the acting Manila City prosecutor, recommended bail of P200,000 for Gregorio's temporary liberty. The case was scheduled to be raffled yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, the Manila Police District filed serious illegal detention charges against the Mendoza brothers.

In Banzuelaa's complaint, he accused Gregorio of being his brother's accomplice in the hostage-taking. He said Gregorio "assisted the perpetrators in collusion" when the latter demanded that his overdue service benefits be released to him and made a scene in front of media.

"At the very critical stage of the hostage

MORE A11



Ammonia leak causes evacuation of 100 families

By Julie M. Aurelio

AT LEAST 100 families living near an ice plant in Barangay Magsaysay, Quezon City, were evacuated on Sunday night due to an ammonia leak at the establishment.

The incident also led to the temporary closure of the VL-RE ice plant as a precaution, Supt. Andre Maldoloy of the Novaliches police station said yesterday.

Residents' complaints

The leak happened at around 8:45 p.m. on Sunday followed by complaints from residents of Baldoza Street—where the plant is located—about eye irritation, difficulty in breathing and nausea.

Maldoloy said other residents complained of nose congestion after they inhaled the chemical coming from the ice factory.

To ensure their safety, people living within a radius of 200 feet from the ice plant were asked to leave their houses and brought to a nearby basketball court, the police official added.

"In coordination with the police, Bureau of Fire Protection and City Hall have been conducting inspections at the plant at 78 Baldoza St. in Barangay Magsaysay," Maldoloy said.

According to the policeman, the ice plant was using ammonia as a "refrigerant."

Not dangerous

Although he pointed out that the chemical was not particularly dangerous, it could still cause difficulty in breathing.

He added that they were checking whether or not it is a complaint against the ice plant reportedly owned by Victor Wenceslao.

"Authorities will be looking into the business permit of the plant as well as its location since it is situated in a residential area," Maldoloy said.

He noted that so far, no one among the affected residents had filed a complaint against the ice plant which has reportedly been operating for four years.

The residents resumed to their homes at around dawn yesterday after plant personnel stopped the leak at around 10:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Maldoloy said that plant personnel told them that the leak came from two valve drafts.

The chief's note that the maintenance work due to prolonged use, he added.

According to residents, the ice plant operates 24 hours a day.

1 killed, dozens of families lose homes as 3 fires hit Metro Manila

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Mike Navallo

A TEENAGE girl was killed while dozens of families were left homeless in three fires that struck three cities in Metro Manila from Sunday afternoon until shortly after noon yesterday.

In Manila, firemen found the burnt body of 19-year-old Angelique Rose Liang in her room on the second floor of her house on Estanislao Street in Tondo.

Liang was asleep when the fire started at 4:25 p.m. on Sunday.

The Manila Fire District, however, sought the help of those of the Crime Operations and the Manila Police District (MPD) Homicide section "to determine the exact cause of death" of the teenager.

FO3 Hilario Sulit of the MPD homicide section said the victim was found lying on a foam bed on the wooden floor.

Aside added that based on a statement from Liang's mother, Veronica, she was selling food on the ground floor of their house when the natural flames coming out of the window of her daughter's room.

Veronica immediately asked for help from their neighbors who called the firemen.

The victim's body was brought to a funeral parlor for autopsy.

Arson investigators said they will soon probing the cause of the fire.

In Pembrique City, fire raged through a community of illegal settlers in Barangay San Isidro, yesterday afternoon.

FO3 Roberto Bautista said in a phone interview that the fire was placed under control at 1:06 p.m. by city fire department logs.

Bautista blamed it began at a house inside Fortunato Village at 1:04 p.m. and reached the second alarm.

The start of the fire was still under investigation.

Fire Officer 1 Rolando Bolina estimated that they were having a Monday morning when the fire started in Sititio Compound in Tabon 3 due to the conflicting accounts of residents.

"We still don't have any definite leads. Some were saying the fire began from an improvised charcoal stove while others were claiming a candle on an altar caused the blaze," he said in a phone interview.

He estimated that the fire, which started at 7:51 p.m. and reached the second alarm, was placed about 40 to 45 families.

It also reduced to ashes P2 million worth of property, Sevilla added.

OUTREACH PROGRAM
Army soldiers were lead to children in a slum area in Tondo, Manila, during a feeding program. Members of the Civil Military Operations Battalion also conducted lectures on proper hygiene for the slum residents. AP

P-Noy's search committee fails on Torres

PRESIDENT Noy should remove his appointment of Virginia Torres as chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in view of a criminal complaint against her.

Torres is the subject of a criminal complaint filed in administrative—Ombo Sled against her in the Department of Justice on May 7, 2009, in connection with the illegal registration of a Mitsubishi Pajero when she was DG headed by Emilio Torres.

Torres, brother of the Davao death's shooting builder, was appointed LTO chief with the rank of secretary transportation secretary in July last year.

If Torres is not removed as LTO chief, there is no telling on death in the country will continue.

* * *

I was about to defend Torres in this space against an accusation thinking that to cut theft, when I received the following text message from a very reliable source:

"I good news, man, where many unscrupulous appointee here in the state, almost all the employees at central office raised their eyebrows in contempt as they know Torres' appointee is being corrupt. she is known to be involved not only in illegal selling of fuel cars, but also in car insurance. like sure (sure) pass to the Philippine National Police) she has businesses in his her appt only shows poor didn't make (sic) background info on his friends."

My source is a former LTO official who resigned because he couldn't stomach the corruption in the agency.

Apparently, Torres has a defender in the person of former Transportation Secretary Bebot Abaya.

Abaya said that when he was head of the Department of Transportation and Communications, Torres was not on his list of corrupt BOTC officials and employees.

* * *

Torres was one of my favorite LTO chiefs since she was very accommodating when I had requests from my program, "Bombong Isko sa Radyo," which was on the air para drivers of public transport.

He said yesterday when she was in the Secretary's former building, I was head of her.

Not my personal feelings or relations with a public figure. Or my relations with the welfare of society is at stake.

* * *

I don't like it against P-Noy when he appoints friends and shooting buddies to key government posts. That's the prerogative of the Chief of State.

Besides, all presidential appointees should have the trust and confidence of the big boss.

But P-Noy's search committee, also do a background check on Virginia Torres.

* * *

Neither did the search committee also do a background check on a customs official who is no corrupt than his own boss, and later locked out for unexplained wealth.

This official has a fleet of luxury cars—he drives a Lexus sports utility vehicle to work—and a huge bank account.

The most glaring fruit of his corruption was the P300 million mansion at APPOSE village in San Rosalio, Taguig City.

The customs official's mansion stands in stark contrast to other mansions that cost from P30 to P50 million.

These other mansions are owned by retired or active military and police generals who are themselves corrupt.

* * *

So long as corrupt officials remain in the highest government, P-Noy's Daang Matuwid (straight and moral path) policy is just a mere slogan.

The citizenry will soon realize that President is only good at rhetoric.

In street lingo, all wasting lang.

FPIC takes over water treatment

By Kristine L. Alave

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the management of New Torres Condominium in Makati City to stop the treatment of contaminated waters in its basement, saying its contractor failed to meet environmental requirements.

In a letter dated Feb. 16, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) told the building's management that Bulanon Industries Inc. (BII), failed to conform with the department's effluent standards despite repeated inspections.

It also noted that BII's special discharge permit had expired.

At the same time, the BIIR said it had already issued the 3-year-old First Philippine Industrial Corp., the owner of the contaminated pipeline which was found to be the source of oil that had been leaking into the condominium basement since July last year, to replace wastewater from the building.

It added that the three parties should come to an agreement among themselves.

Earlier, the DENR stopped the condominium management from discharging the oil-laden wastewater from the basement into the city's drainage system.

This was after it found out that the wastewater did not conform with the department's effluent standards.

The which have been shipped with a P14.2 million fine for polluting Sampaloc Bangkal, the area in which the condominium is located, has hired an American firm to clean up the oil spill. In a branch hearing last month, PFIC said the rehabilitation of the area could take three years.

PFIC's transmittal pipeline transports fuel products from Batangas province to the Pandacan oil depot in Manila. Part of the pipeline is located on Osmeña Highway, just several meters away from the condominium.

SEEING YELLOW
Instead of tying yellow ribbon on the railings of the Ortigas flyover, workers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority paint those yellow in preparation for the 25th anniversary celebration of Edsa I on Friday. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

METROBRIEFS

Taguig gov't lauds boxer

THE Taguig City government is rolling out the welcome for its undefeated, newly crowned boxing champion Rodel "The Filipino Flash" Jimenez Jr. who knocked the wits out of Mexican fernando Montiel on Sunday in Las Vegas. Taguig Mayor Ma. Laarni Cayetano yesterday ordered city officials to prepare a warm welcome for Jimenez, who needed only about five minutes to demolish Montiel and capture the World Boxing Council (WBC) and World Boxing Organization (WBO) featherweight titles from the Mexican. "It is only right and fitting that we give a hero's welcome to Jimenez when he comes back from losing Taguig's sons and daughters, he gave not only the city but the entire country a reason to be proud," she said in a statement in Jimenez. She also lauded the four-time title defense after his demolition of Montiel. Jimenez is the current World Boxing Association interim featherweight title champion and other city officials are confident he can defend—taking Filipino honor a notch higher. Mayor Cayetano ordered her secretary Marco Evangelista to start preparations for Jimenez's arrival. Mike Alcazaren

Tipster gets reward

THE tricycle driver who tipped off the police about the whereabouts of the suspects in the massacre of convicts in Cavite, Rizal yesterday received the P100,000 reward money promised by the municipal government. During the simple ceremony, Cainta Mayor Jun Ynares handed over the P100,000 check to Fernando Jacinto, 48, a resident of Boni, Mandaluyong. "The information he gave helped a lot in solving the case. Now, the cooperation of the community made the police's work easier," Ynares said. The Bureau of Fire Protection Chief Senior Supt. Ruben Fernandez

China meets call for protests with show of force

BEIJING—Shrinking domestic security officials responded with a massive show of force across China on Sunday after anonymous calls for protests to stage a Chinese version of the "Jasmine" unrest out every social media and microblogging outlets.

Although there were no reports of large demonstrations, the unusual government response highlighted China's nervousness at a time of spreading unrest in the Middle East aimed at overthrowing authoritarian governments.

The words "Jasmine Revolution," borrowed from the successful Tunisian revolt, were blocked on domestic Chinese Internet search engines, while cell phone users were unable to send out text messages to multiple recipients, a heavy police presence was reported in several Chinese cities.

In recent days, more than a dozen lawyers and rights activists have been rounded up, and scores of dissidents have reportedly been placed under house arrest. Dozens of human rights defenders and human rights advocates used Sunday.

In Beijing, a huge crowd formed outside a McDonald's on the heart of the capital on Sunday after messages went out saying it as one of 13 protest sites across the country. It is not clear who organized the messages, but if their appeared Thursday on Boxun, a Chinese-language website based in the United States, and then spread through Twitter and other microblogging services.

By 2 p.m., the planned start of the protests, hundreds of police officers had swarmed the area, a major shopping district popular with tourists.

At one point, the police surrounded a young man who had placed a jasmine on a planter outside the McDonald's, but he was released after the clamor drew journalists and photographers.

In Shanghai, three people were detained during a skirmish in front of a StarBucks, the Associated Press reported. One person on Twitter described a heavily armed police presence on the sidewalks of Shenzhen, and another claimed that officials at Peking University in Beijing had urged students to avoid any protests, but those reports were impossible to verify Sunday evening.

The messages calling people to actions urged protesters to shout, "We want food, we want work, we want housing, we want fairness," an ostensible effort to tap into popular discontent over inflation and soaring real estate prices.

In a sign of the ruling Communist Party's growing anxiety, President Hu Jintao summoned top leaders to a special "study session" on Saturday and urged them to address festering social problems before they became threats to stability.

"The overall requirement for enhancing and innovating social management are to stress law-reality in the society and increase harmonious elements in the greatest extent, while reducing unharmonious factors to the minimum," he told the gathering, according to Xinhua, the official news agency.

Human rights advocates said they were especially concerned by the recent crackdown on rights defenders, which intensified Saturday after at least 21 well-known lawyers and activists were detained or placed under house arrest. Several of them reached by phone, including Pu Zhiqiang and Xu Zhiyong, said they were in the company of security agents and unable to talk, while many others were unreachable on Sunday evening. Two of the men, Yang Jisian and Jiang Tianyong, remain missing.

Many of those subjected to house arrest had met in Beijing on Wednesday to discuss the case of Chen Guangcheng, a blind lawyer under strict house arrest in rural Shandong Province. Supporters of Chen said his family gained widespread attention last week after a video he and his wife made about his arrest emerged on the Internet.

Jiang, one of the missing lawyers, was forced into an unmarked car on Saturday night, his second abduction in recent days, his wife, Jin Sanding, said by telephone. She said the police had also searched the couple's home and confiscated his computer and briefcase.

After last year's detention Wednesday Jiang said that he was taken to a police station and assaulted.

New York Times News Service

Nato air strike in Afghanistan kills 35 people

JALALABAD, Afghanistan—Nato air strikes killed at least 35 people in a remote mountainous area of eastern Afghanistan last week in an attack that Nato officers say was a successful mission against Taliban insurgents, but that Afghan officials have condemned as causing mass civilian casualties.

A joint Nato and Afghan assessment team will go to the area Monday to investigate the casualty allegations.

Meanwhile, the death toll rose to 46 in the attack on a bank in Jalalabad on Tuesday where soldiers and police officers were lining up to collect their pay. Officials said three of the seven gunmen were from Pakistan, and the one assailant who was captured said he was trained by the Haqqani network, a Pakistan-based terrorist group allied with the Taliban.

The Nato air strike accused of causing civilian casualties involved helicopters and F-15 jets and took place late Thursday and into the early morning Friday in the Ghaziabad District of Kunar province.

Nato and Afghan officials agree that the area is heavily infiltrated by insurgents.

The Kunar governor, Jamil Fachlullah Pathuli, said officials had not been able to visit the area to independently evaluate the casualty claims because it was too insecure, but that reports from residents indicated that women and children were killed as well as some insurgents.

"According to our information 64 people were killed: 13 armed opposition, 22 women, 26 boys and three old men," Pathuli said.

New York Times News Service

WORLD BRIEFS

Burma hardens stance on Suu Kyi, party

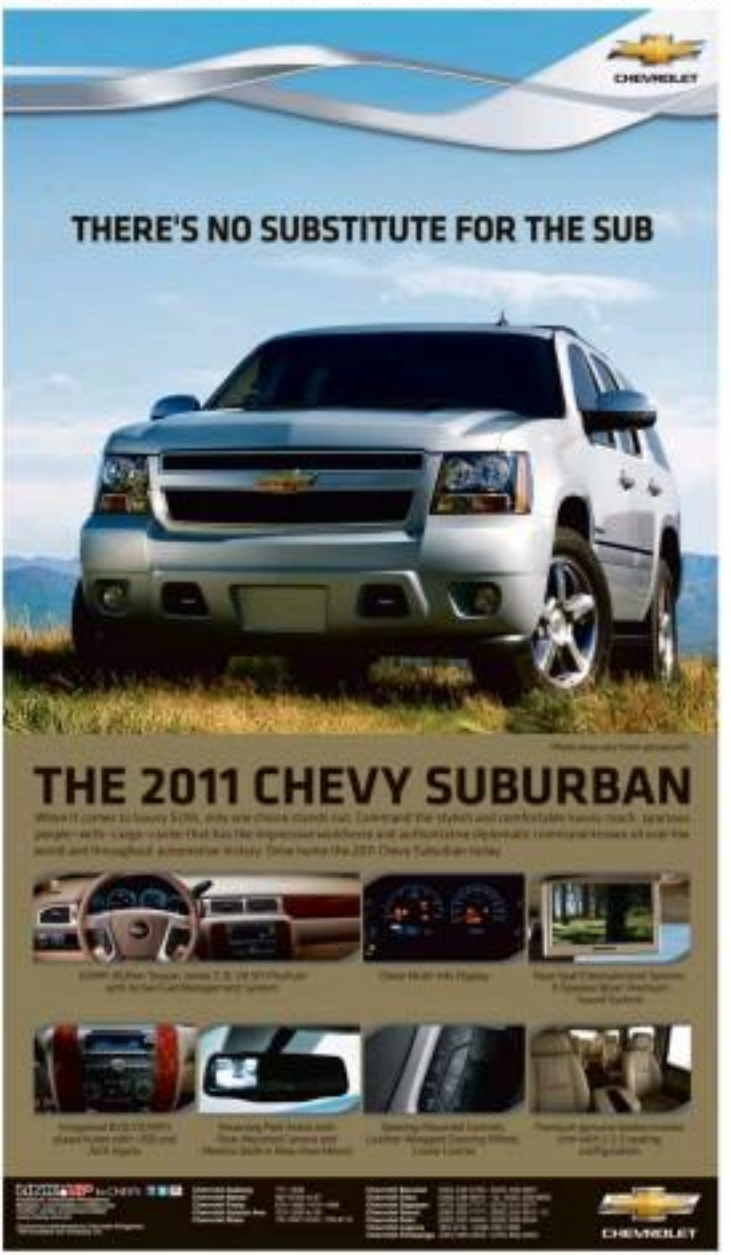
BANGKOK—The military rulers of Burma (Myanmar) appear to be taking a harder line toward the pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her party three months after her release from house arrest, focusing on the opposition's support for continued punitive sanctions against the government. After warning earlier that Suu Kyi and her party could meet "tragic ends" if they continued to support economic and political sanctions, the government demanded over the weekend, through the state controlled newspapers, that the party apologize for acting against what it said were the interests of the nation. Soon after her release in November, Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, said she would consider supporting the relaxation of sanctions, which have become the focus of debate overseas since the end of her latest house arrest. Some of those critics said the election of a nominally civilian government a week earlier

New York Times News Service

Rumsfeld: Obama has habit of apologizing for America

WASHINGTON—US President Barack Obama has a habit of apologizing for the United States and did nothing to earn his Nobel Peace Prize, former defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Sunday. Asked whether Obama had turned international favor back toward the United States after eight years of president George W. Bush's administration, Rumsfeld rejected the premise. "No, and I don't think there's data that supports that," he said in an interview with CBS. "I think he has made a practice of trying to apologize for America. I personally am proud of America." Rumsfeld said Obama was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize "on hope" instead of his accomplishments, something Obama himself suggested at the time. "Well, he had not accomplished anything when he got the Nobel Prize. It was given to him on hope. Hard to have been because there wasn't anything that he'd done. He'd been in office 10 minutes," Rumsfeld said.

AFP



The WORLD

Lita Lorente B. Sotto

After revolt, Tunisians debate role of Islam

TUNIS...The Tunisian revolution that overthrow decades of authoritarian rule has ushered a delicate new phase in recent days over the role of Islam in politics. Tensions mounted how last week when military helicopters and security forces were called in to stop riots on unusual tension. Protecting the city's landmarks been a mob of zealots.

Police officers dispersed a group of mob chanting protesters who streamed into a tourists of silkworm lined with bookseller shouting, "God is great"; amid "She is headed in a Muslim country!"

Five weeks after protesters forced out the authoritarian government of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisians are locked in a fierce and noisy debate about the role of Islam in politics.

About 98 percent of the population of 10 million is Muslim, but Tunisia's liberal social policies and Western lifestyle distance stereotypes of the Arab world. Abortion is legal, polygamy is banned, and women certainly wear bikini on the country's Mediterranean beaches. Wine is openly sold in supermarkets and imbibed at bars across the country.

Whatever's progress say they are concerned that in the euphoriousness aftermath of the revolution, conservative forces could tug the country away from its strict tradition of secularism.

"Nothing is irreversible," said Khadija Cherif, a former head of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women, a feminist organization. "We don't want to let down our guard."

Cherif was one of thousands of Tunisians who marched through the capital on Saturday demanding the expulsion of troops and cabinet in one of the largest demonstrations since the overthrow of Ben Ali.

Protesters held up signs saying, "Politics ruins religion and religion ruins politics."

They were also recurring the killing on Friday of a 80-ish priest by unknown attackers. That assault was also condemned by the country's main Muslim political movement, Ennahdha, or Renaissance, which was banned under Ben Ali's dictatorship but is now legal again.

In interviews with the Tunisian news media, Ennahdha's leaders have taken pains to praise tolerance and moderation, comparing themselves to the Islamic parties that govern Turkey and Malaysia.

"We know we have an essentially fragile economy that is very open toward the outside world, to the point of being totally dependent on it," Hamadi Jebali, the party's secretary general, said in an recent debate about the role of Islam in politics.

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Opposition demands Bahrain gov't dissolved

MANAMA, Bahrain—Teachers, lawyers and engineers marched into Pearl Square on Sunday, joining an emboldened opposition whose political leaders demanded that the king dissolve the government and fire his uncle, who has held the post of prime minister for 40 years, before they agree to enter into talks.

After deadly crackdowns and demonstrations over the past week, an anxious calm prevailed, with a standoff continuing between an absolute monarchy determined to preserve its full range of powers and a peaceful opposition demanding a transition to democracy with an elected government and representative parliament.

Demonstrators continued to occupy the symbolic center of the nation at Pearl Square, and by Sunday evening tens of thousands of people had jammed into the square in the largest gathering in a week of demonstrations.

The crown prince, Sheik Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, continued to call for a national dialogue and period of mourning as a step toward reconciliation. But officials with the leading opposition party, the Shiite movement called Al Wefaq, said that with 26 people dead, one beaten death in the hospital, hundreds injured and many still missing, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa would first have to convince them that he was willing to compromise after repeatedly unleashing his security forces to ruthless over the past week.

The party called for the dismissal of the long-serving prime minister, Sheik Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and the appointment of an interim unity government.

"You can't send your troops with machine guns, kill people and then expect to start a dialogue," said Abdul Jalil Khalil Ebrahim, one the 18 party members to withdraw from Parliament in protest over the deaths. "The Cabinet has to go. This government has failed.

A protester with a Bahraini flag holds her ground at the Pearl roundabout on Feb. 21. AP

Here can we trust them in a dialogue?"

There are three main players besides the king in the royal family part of the Sunni minority that controls the country. They are the crown prince, known as the most moderate among the group; the prime minister, who is said to be wealthy, but whose power has ebbed as popular anger at him has peaked; and the minister of the Royal Court, Sheik Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, known as the hard-liner of the three, opposition leaders say.

At the moment, the crown prince appears to be the upper hand in discussions among the King's close aides, but opposition leaders say the king has been hesitant to play members of his inner circle against one another and fear the dynamic could change at any time.

With the army removed from Pearl Square, where only two days earlier it had opened fire on a group of peaceful demonstrators, and police withdrawn under intense pressure from the United States, the opposition acted as if it were in a position of strength. Seven opposition parties have called for a demonstration on Tuesday, which Ebrahim said he believed would draw the largest crowds to date.

"The government has to step down and the people who killed our people must be punished," said Ebrahim, a member of the Al Wefaq Council of Representatives. "Is it that easy to turn the page? You kill people and then you say you want to talk?"

Members of the opposition, a popular movement centered in Bahrain's majority Shiite community and set off by young people, were both elated at their ability to camp in Pearl Square Saturday night, but also somber over the toll of dead, wounded and missing.

"Our martyrs in our hearts," reads a mural on a wall by workers from the Union Square Workers Club, which is the square's headquarters. Others who had stayed in tents under the stars.

"I can't sleep at night, because I want to know where are our people?" said Abbas Yousef, 21, a middle-school English teacher who joined the demonstration. "Right now, that is our first demand. I want to know where's the dead, the injured. I have to know."

The tone of those interviewed for the week news been largely overlooked as remonstrated from violence to hope, as the authorities vacillated between smashing protesters and seeking saving security forces. But by Sunday, demonstrators and opposition leaders were speaking openly, with reports of about 26 people still missing.

The government did provide some answers. By midday, about 30 people had been freed from jail, including abdul Rauf al Shaiy, 37, who limped into his home in the village of Sanabis, his body badly bruised, his right eye black and his ankle possibly broken. He said he had been grabbed by police officers as he tried to flee Pearl Square early on Thursday morning, when security forces attacked without warning while thousands of demonstrators slept. He said he had been handcuffed with a hard plastic band, beaten with a club, stomped and punched, and then locked up in a jail for several days.

"I want a constitutional monarchy," he said. "I want the government to be for the people, whether they are Sunni or Shiite."

New York Times News Service

Protests in Tehran stifled

ANTIGOVERNMENT protesters gathered throughout much of Iran on Sunday, most conspicuously in the capital of Tehran, to mark the deaths of two men killed during demonstrations last Monday.

The government mounted a mollifying security presence in the capital, with the police making arrests and using tear gas to try to prevent the unrest from escalating.

Despite a steady rain, large crowds gathered intermittently throughout Tehran, from the main thoroughfare to city squares, according to opposition websites and witnesses.

The security forces seemed prepared for them, and in some locations, witnesses reported that police officers and forces holding motorcycles outnumbered the protesters. There were reports of police officers firing on the crowds, although those could not be confirmed, because most foreign journalists were not allowed to report in Iran.

Opposition websites and witnesses said that ambulances were driven into the crowds. Security forces, including riot control units on motorcycles, deployed tear gas to disperse crowds in several places, including near Valiasr Square and Vanak Square.

Plainclothes officers stopped and frisked people on the streets and removed people from vehicles, witnesses said.

Iran's official news agency, IRNA, reported that the police arrested the daughter of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the former president and a central figure among the ruling conservatives, for taking part in a banned opposition rally and shouting antigovernment slogans. She was later released, IRNA reported.

Rafsanjani's daughter, Faezeh Hashemi, also was detained during a protest in 2009.

On Saturday, the Iranian government banned people to stay away from the demonstrations. The Fars news agency reported that antigovernment protesters from Mujahedeen Khalq, an exiled opposition group that the government has accused of masterminding terrorist attacks in Iran. From Issues in Iraq and Europe, planned to free troops at the demonstrations.

The group's hope, according to Fars, a semiofficial service linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, was that this would incite security forces to also begin shooting at the crowds, to increase the divide between the government and the opposition.

Witnesses estimated that more than 30,000 people protested on Feb. 14, and some opposition websites suggested there were close to 1 million people. Whatever the precise turnout, these were the largest opposition protests since the disputed election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2009.

New York Times News Service

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IN THIS ISSUE

- **Jollibee net profit rose** 16% to P3.09B in '10 /B2
- **PSE index seen** hitting new high /B6

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Cornie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

EPSON

Groups back Tetangco reappointment

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Feb. 21, 2011
43.400

STOCK MARKET
Feb. 21, 2011
13.8

Stocks down in this trade

'BSP governor has proved his mettle'

By Dexter L. Luna

THE UMBRELLA organization of the country's biggest business groups has thrown its weight behind President Aquino's decision to reappoint Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. to a second term at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

91-day T-bill rate rises to 1.655%

By Ruena M. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT has edged up in the face of the upward pressure on the rate of borrowings, finally accepting bids that produced yields on the 91-day treasury bills higher by 9% 6 basis points to an average 1.655 percent.

The Bureau of the Treasury rejected all bids for the benchmark bills during the previous two auctions.

Rizalino Treasury Roberto B. Tan said the Treasury accepted higher bids yesterday mainly because the re-taking average was lower than the 3-percent rate prevailing in the secondary market.

On the other hand, yield on the 182-day bills went down 49.1 basis points to an average 2.414 percent.

Similarly, bids on the 364-day bills slid 18.1 basis points to an average 3.058 percent.

At the Philippine Exchange and Trading Corp., prevailing average rates for dealt done in all seven tenors were 0.1 percent for the 182-day bills and 0.625 percent for the 364-day paper.

"All the resulting average rates were below secondary market rates," Tan said. "Buyers are starting to participate more actively, with lenders going up to meaningful volumes."

Investors brought forward a total of P29.46 billion, more than thrice the P9.5-billion offer.

Tenders for the three-month bills reached P7.15 billion, or more than seven times the P1 billion on offer.

Bids for the six-month securities reached P13.95 billion, or more than thrice the P3.5 billion offered, while those for the year-long bills reached P10.4 billion, or more than twice the P4 billion offered.

The Treasury raised a total of P9.9 billion from all three issues, higher by P400 million from the original offer.

This explained that this was due to a rule that allowed the Treasurer to double the amount it would award for non-competitive bids if, for a given issue, such bids accounted for less than a quarter of all tenders.

Non-competitive bidders do

Gov't to bid out gas pipeline project in Q3

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing to bid out the Batangas-Manila (Batman 1) natural gas pipeline project by the third quarter, a move that is expected to make natural gas as even more attractive fuel for power generation and transportation.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said that instead of just bidding out the construction of a 100-kilometer pipeline, the plan was to have distribution channels emanating from the main pipeline. These would form part of the entire Batman 1 project.

The moves that instead of the pipeline ending in Batangas, the project would go all the way to Calamba Highway with distribution pipes feeding the main pipeline to distribution points in Silay, CS and Quezon Highway.

"We can spread the gas (distribution) not just for transport but for domestic or industrial use. We will have to see road rights of way. We've been studying that," he said. "It's now a bigger project than it used to be. The pipes are now not just the big pipe, but also ones (moving to) the distribution pipes, similar to electricity where you have transmission to subtransmission. There are going to be a lot of opportunities there."

He said the terms of reference for the bidding were now being finalized. Bidding should take place by the third quarter.

The project could be offered under the public-private partnership, the Philippine economy grew more than 7 percent on the back of solid macroeconomic fundamentals, timely and effective policy responses and purposeful efforts," it said. "Moreover, the strong growth rate was achieved in a low-inflation environment."

In a statement yesterday, the Chamber of Thrift Banks said that Tetangco "has done a good job in keeping the inflation, loss and interest rates at the appropriate levels and the economy afloat despite pressures from rising oil and commodity prices."

"Tetangco has been named twice by Global Finance Magazine as one of the world's top central bankers," the group added. "Through his exemplary leadership, the BSP has remained a respected top performer in stabilizing monetary tools that steered the country's economy."

Earlier, ABC chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. and ONAP president Felipe Pedro Jr. also endorsed Tetangco's

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Jollibee net profit rose 16% to ₱3.09B in 2010

Exec bullish on RP, foreign operations this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

JOLLIBEE FOODS Corp. grew its net profit last year by 16 percent to P3.09 billion on store expansion and improved margins sustained a double-digit rise in revenues.

For the fourth quarter alone, net income attributable to equity holders of parent company surged 16.2 percent to P940 million from a year ago.

Full-year consolidated revenues grew likewise up 12.7 percent to P34.93 billion on the back of an 11.6-percent rise in system-wide retail sales to P119.46 billion year on year.

"Practically all our brands in all countries where we operate achieved growth in the fourth quarter of 2010 versus the same period in 2009," led by our businesses Yonghe king and Hong Zhuang Yuan in China (26-percent growth) and Jollibee International (23-percent growth)," JFC chair and chief executive officer Tony Tan Caktiong said yesterday.

The acquisition of fast-growing grilled-chicken restaurant chain Mang Inasal last June year contributed 31 percentage points to world-wide sales growth.

Its global network ended 2010 with 2,316 stores, up 221 percent from a year ago, due primarily to the acquisition of Mang Inasal.

"We were able to improve and even slightly improve our profit margins despite the fast-rising cost of labor, power and raw materials," Tan Caktiong said.

JFC chief finance officer Virtusio Ilagan said the company's net income margin improved to 5.26 percent in 2010 from 5.01 percent a year ago while return on equity rose to 18.6 percent from 17.1 percent over the same period.

Capital spending likewise more than doubled to ₱5.7 billion last year, outstanding cash(e) of ₱12.6 billion to continue its store openings and renovation, ₱2.7 billion for the acquisition of a 30-percent stake in Mang Inasal and ₱1.28 billion to fund the construction of a central commissary in Anhui province in China. The company has also signed a deal to acquire 51 percent of Sun Pin Wang, a fortified chain with 16 stores in Guangxi Province in southern China this year.

"Our brands are not restricted to, but sales and profit growth in the Philippines and abroad in the years ahead. We expect our fairly new businesses in China, the United States, the Middle East and Vietnam and our newly acquired business Mang Inasal to drive sales and profit growth," Tan Caktiong said.

As of end December, JFC had 1,105 stores in the Philippines. Of the local stores, the flagship Jollibee brand has 737. Chinese fastfood chain Chowking has 400, pizza chain Greenwich has 223, bakery Red Ribbon has 216, Mang Inasal has 132 and coffee-gelato chain Cafe Te has nine stores. Newly acquired Mang Inasal added 340 stores to the network.

It also has 106 stores overseas: Yonghe King in China with 1,000 stores; Chowking with 67 mainly in the United States (24), Vietnam (22) and Wuhan (10); Red Ribbon with 16, all in the US; Chowking with 28 mainly in the US (19) and Dubai (19), and Hong Zhuang Yuan with 52 stores.

Changing to 'selective buy'

MARKET RIDER

Dan Sontoyo

I'M CHANGING my market strategy to "selective buy" starting this week.

If you still recall, I've always been a market bear since November last year. I do not regret this decision, for the market has not yet really recovered since then.

Such a reading will did not preclude participation in the stock plays of speculative stocks that followed to unfold since then; a trading recommendation that had proven very rewarding, I must say.

Trend reversal?

After last week though, I thought things were to be changing soon. Something told me that 10-week period-like chart stock prices had for both me in the benchmark index closed just above the 5,000 level last Friday.

Categorically, the market may not have his bottom yet, for because the market was still obviously weak as it ended in negative territory at the close of trading last week. The market did not even have half of the momentum of the smaller but successful session of "people power" held in Egypt that ousted the kingdom-strongman Hosni Mubarak.

The market did not go into totally locally roads like the world over cheap, pointing many like me who thought that it would—or more precisely wished that it should.

However, like the suddenly people power session in Egypt that nonetheless proved successful, the market's subtle changes in momentum for the whole of last week looked as if it reversal along with it some of the bearish elements that will lead the market to a reversal in the very near term.

For the first time in a long while, the market's benchmark index ended 102.09 points higher on a weekly basis. It's a fair not conclusive but nevertheless observable positive.

Unlike in previous weeks, too, three out of the five trading days of past week finished out to be positive.

Gross sale transactions on the main board continued to be positive as well. Many of which were the result of block sales involving fundamentally issues like SM Investments Corp., San Miguel Corp and Cebu Air Inc.

Lastly, judging from the nature of trading activities involved last week, the transactions seemed to have shifted from short-term investors (speculators) to long-term investors (strong hands).

Bottom line-spin

Come to think of it, changing one's mind is still regarded negatively by a great number of our countries. To many of them, it is considered a social trait that reflects weakness or flaw in one's character. One explanation to that stand-out is due to the influence of the Asians culture that gives great emphasis and emphasis on one's given word.

Interestingly, western culture dismisses it as nothing but an unnecessarily-warned act. It's a practical business reaction that is bound to be made by anyone, most especially for self-preservation.

One incident that served as a vivid illustration of these contrasting perspectives on the subject was my experience during the visit of the legendary trading guru Mohammad Ali.

Ali was in Manila for his third and final bout with the then indomitable "Smoking" Joe Frazier for the heavyweight boxing Championship of the World dubbed as the "Thrilla in Manila" (October 1, 1975, at the Araneta Coliseum).

One day barely asked Ali if he can be the sponsor in the fourteen of his son. Of course, this did not pop-up just like a big surprise to the brass. It was an affair long-worked out, carefully choreographed on national TV hook-up Ali's encounter with the public to promote the big fight.

Always in his own charismatic and witty as he was then, Ali made an unrehearsed quip that immediately-hooked to was discussion on whether exactly he was willing President Aquino's decision to reappoint Tetangco.

The ads seemed the BSP chief of, among others, failing to deal with "the high inflation and slowing rate of the nation's economy—the widening gap between rich and poor."

The campaign was spearheaded by former Securities and Exchange Commission chief Perfecto Yasay Jr.

Despite this, Malacañang said the President was standing firm in his decision to reappoint Tetangco come his current term ends in June.

According to the business groups, the BSP chief's first term was marked with solid successes on the macroeconomic front, including the sustained strengthening of the country's external payments position, which posted a surplus of $13.3 billion in the first 11 months of 2010, while gross international reserves surpassed the $60-billion mark.

Also, the sustained low inflation rate environment of certain issues. This will keep the fastest on a steady heading with a near-term inflation environment. Nevertheless, with the overall macro-market positive, this should be an opportune for long-term funds to search for and accumulate bargain securities," Accord Capital said. Doris C. Dumlao

Groups back Tetangco reappointment

From page B1

Ilagan's building his cluster of Tetangco for reappointment as BSP chief.

Both business leaders praised the President's choice, which they said highlighted the latter's adherence of the independence of the central monetary authority which was enacted to the fulfillment of its mandates.

The public backing for Tetangco by several groups was prompted by the release of rare paid ads in major newspapers over the last month as-

Stocks down in thin trade

From page B1

sign selling that has battered the market since the start of the year could be abating.

The market's All advancers were outnumbered by 71 decliners while 47 stocks were unchanged.

Among the stocks that were sold down were: Alsons Power, Cebu Air, BDO Megaland, San Miguel, DMCI, FLDC, Metrobank, Meralco, Nickel Asia, Philex and Phil Holdings.

Among those that bucked the downtrend were DJC, newly listed Megawide Construction, SM Prime, Banco de Oro and Manila Mining.

Megawide, which listed on Friday, closed 3.05 percent higher at ₱8.70 a share.

"Local investors will continue to mainly stay on the sidelines, waiting for fresher leads and the easing of political tensions in the Middle East even as we can observe relative accumulation of certain issues. This will keep the market on a steady heading with a near-term inflation environment. Nevertheless, with the overall macro-market positive, this should be an opportune for long-term funds to search for and accumulate bargain securities," Accord Capital said. Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of January 21, 2011

CURRENCIES

February 21, 2011 Country	Unit	Cash Buy/Sell	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	dollar	43.7500/44.0000	1.0000/1.0000	43.7500/44.0000
Japan	yen	53.1000/53.4000	0.8200/0.8300	0.8200/0.8300
United Kingdom	pound	70.2000/70.5000	1.6000/1.6100	70.2000/70.5000
Hong Kong	dollar	5.6000/5.6300	0.1280/0.1290	5.6000/5.6300
Switzerland	franc	47.7000/48.0000	1.0900/1.0950	47.7000/48.0000
Canada	dollar	43.9000/44.2000	1.0040/1.0100	43.9000/44.2000
Singapore	dollar	34.2000/34.5000	0.7800/0.7900	34.2000/34.5000
Australia	dollar	44.4000/44.7000	1.0150/1.0220	44.4000/44.7000
Bahrain	dinar	116.0000/117.0000	2.6500/2.6750	116.0000/117.0000
Saudi Arabia	riyal	11.6000/11.7000	0.2650/0.2675	11.6000/11.7000
Kuwait	dinar	154.0000/155.0000	3.5200/3.5450	154.0000/155.0000
Europe	euro	60.7000/61.0000	1.3880/1.3950	60.7000/61.0000
Thailand	baht	1.4500/1.4600	0.0330/0.0335	1.4500/1.4600
UAE	dirham	11.9000/12.0000	0.2720/0.2745	11.9000/12.0000
China	yuan	6.6500/6.6800	0.1520/0.1530	6.6500/6.6800
India	rupee	0.9700/0.9800	0.0220/0.0225	0.9700/0.9800
Korea	won	0.0380/0.0390	0.0008/0.0009	0.0380/0.0390
Malaysia	ringgit	14.2000/14.3000	0.3240/0.3270	14.2000/14.3000
Taiwan	dollar	1.4500/1.4600	0.0330/0.0335	1.4500/1.4600
New Zealand	dollar	34.0000/34.3000	0.7770/0.7850	34.0000/34.3000
Indonesia	rupiah	0.0048/0.0049	0.0001/0.0001	0.0048/0.0049
Vietnam	dong	0.0021/0.0022	0.0000/0.0000	0.0021/0.0022

Food exporters seek duty-free sugar to cut costs

By Ria T. Dizhonlera

FOOD PROCESSORS are urging government to allocate "reserve" sugar for exporters to boost their competitiveness.

Roberto C. Ansaro, president of the Philippine Food Exporters and Processors Organization (PHILFOODEX), said in a briefing yesterday that food exporters are lobbying funds to pay 30 percent duty and 12 percent value-added tax on imported sugar.

Sugar industry millers fear possible market price distortion

At the same time, Ansaro said, food exporters find local sugar expensive.

Sugar industry stakeholders, however, said that sugar prices are high all over the world and that the government already allows food exporters to import the volume of sugar that they need, duty-free.

Companies claiming to be food exporters who sell finished products locally should transport bulky with other Filipino manufacturers by buying locally available sugar at market prices or by importing sugar with duties at 20 percent, Philippine Sugar Millers Association (PSMA) executive director Archimedes Ansaro said in a phone interview.

Ansaro also noted that local sugar prices have started going down as local demand has remained low since late December 2010.

The sugar industry partly attributed the low demand to sugar imports that arrived in the Philippines late in 2010.

"The large volume they need to have down to buy at wholesale market rates. Imagen prices have already gone down. It would be unfair to ask farmers to further cut their price and sell at below-market rates," Ansaro said.

Previous sugar allowances at below-market prices were given to food exporters to encourage them to boost competitiveness and expand their operations.

However, they have not improved competitiveness and considering to allocate local sugar to food exporters instead of allowing sugar factory free reign in the selling interests to subsidize the exporters' operations, PSMA executive vice president V. Fuentes Tamar added in an earlier interview.

In the fourth quarter of 2010, Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) reclassified some 41,200 metric tons of "D" sugar (for non-US export) to "C-1" (reserve).

At the time, the Philippines boasted reserve sugar stocks in anticipation of additional orders from the previous US market.

US-bound sugar fetches the highest prices among the classifications, encouraging producers to sell onto production in the market.

GSIS relaxes pension policy

By Bernard W. Dizmingo

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has adopted guidelines paving the way for the implementation of a month's salary on pension for spouses of deceased members.

Roberto G. Vergara, GSIS president and general manager, said some 300,000 people until benefit from the "retained" policy with each qualified individual getting up to P30,000 monthly.

Vergara said that under the guidelines, the maximum amount of basic survivorship pension should not exceed half of the highest salary grade in the Salary Standardization law—for a Cabinet Undersecretary, which is about P90,000 a month.

"The ceiling is based on the rank of an Undersecretary because that is the highest rank position in government," he said.

The GSIS chief added that for those whose pensions were suspended under the old survivorship policy, the pension fund will restore the accrued amounts equivalent to the period of suspension.

"GSIS will also request our surviving spouses whose applications were previously denied to submit their application forms for processing and computation immediately," Vergara said.

Last December, the GSIS board of trustees issued a resolution that allows surviving spouses of deceased members and pensioners to receive their monthly pension benefits even if they are holding jobs and enjoying other sources of income.

This decision strikes out "arrogant" rules under the revised survivorship pension of the GSIS charter, which disqualified surviving spouses from getting the usual half of the GSIS pensioners monthly benefit if they are "gainfully employed" or they are not "dependent for support" on the pension.

Based on these previous rules, widows and widowers were also disqualified from getting the usual half of the GSIS pensioners' monthly benefit if the spouse earns more than the minimum wage rate of national government employees or is getting pension from other institutions.

Until December's resolution, such rules ruled in a measure those spouses who earn more than the minimum wage rate of national government employees or is getting pension from other institutions, regardless of amount.

Even then, the GSIS board placed a cap on what the survivors can receive "to avoid unusually large disparities" in pension benefits.

However, the state fund said in statement issued earlier that survivorship pension to the dependents of spouses shall stop in case the latter "remarries, rehabilitates or engages in common law relationship."

Further, the GSIS said that rules on the qualifications for survivorship pension had been seen in order to ensure that GSIS funds are preserved and the agency is kept able to pay benefits.

But "while actuarial stability of the system is of paramount importance, the GSIS remains a social service institution which must meet the needs of its members and pensioners," the agency said.

According to Vergara, the easing of the rules on survivorship pension is part of an overall review of GSIS policies in response to numerous complaints among members of the state fund.

Such policies included the pre-retirement benefit policy and the claims and loans interdependency policy (CLIP), which Vergara said the agency wanted to be more responsive to their members while giving due consideration to the viability of the pension fund.

Manulife premium up 40% in '10

By Michelle V. Rivera

MANULIFE Philippines enjoyed a surge in premium collection in 2010 due to the economy's growth and the expansion of its subsidiaries.

In a briefing yesterday, Sidney Naidoo, president and chief executive officer of the insurer's office in the Philippines, reported that the company collected P4.6 billion in premium growth in premium collection last year vs P4.9 billion from P3.5 billion in 2009.

"Growth in premium[s] was a result of productivity gains from our distribution channels, expanded nationwide presence, strong business partnerships, and reinvestment in bond equity, in addition to improvements in the bond economy," Naidoo said.

The company attributed the growth came both from the insurance and the traditional means of selling insurance products through agents.

He said Manulife Philippines had 2,200 agents as of end-2010, rising by 61 percent from only 1,366 in 2009.

Moreover, the company put up branches outside Metro Manila, such as in Digos City, General Santos City, Isabela province, and Sta. Rosa in Laguna.

The insurance channel contributed substantially to the growth in premiums. Naidoo said China Banking, the bancassurance partner of Manulife, has become more active in selling insurance products of Manulife in its bank branches.

Of the premiums collected in 2010, 22 percent were generated through bancassurance. The share was close to double the 17 percent registered in 2009.

Robert Cook, who heads Manulife's operations in Asia, said the growth in premium collection in the Philippines mirrored the increase in collection in Asia.

He said Manulife Financial, the main company, gained $2 billion in premium collection from its offices in Asia. This was up by 43 percent from close to $700 million in 2009.

Cook said Manulife Financial is optimistic about the growth of its operations in Asia, including in the Philippines, given the region's rising economy.

"In most countries in Asia, economies are growing strong. The last is country for companies like Manulife in but on business growth in that part of the world," Cook said.

Naidoo said favorable growth projections for the Philippines entices Manulife to look for more expansion opportunities this year and over the medium-term.

Meanwhile, which has been in the Philippines for over a century, is one of the oldest insurance companies in the Philippines.

Gov't to bid out gas pipeline project in Q3

From page B1

ownership approach, he said. Builders could take on just certain portions of the pipeline, build the entire pipeline network themselves, or forge partnerships with other interested parties for joint construction and operation.

"There are so many companies interested. There's a significant volume of interest in every aspect of the pipeline project," he said.

The government has actually received an unsolicited proposal for the Batangas-to-Manila pipeline project. He said, however, that solicited bids were preferred.

Energy Undersecretary Jesus Arthur Tamayo earlier expressed interest to bid for the Batangas-to-Manila project, then estimated to cost $1.2 billion, once the government placed it on the auction block.

The original components of the Batangas-to-Manila project included a 100-kilometer pipeline, a liquefied natural gas terminal and a 600-megawatt power plant. Natural gas supply would come from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in Palawan.

91-day T-bill rate rises to 1.655%

From page B1

not indicate a rate in their tenders and they get the resulting average rate when their bids are accepted.

In yesterday's case, non-competitive bids for the 91-day bills accounted for just 29.7 percent of tenders, so the Treasury scooped P900 million or double the planned award for such bids.

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c3@robinsonsbank.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No. 2011-002 – Goods
SSS Sick Rice Grant for the 2nd Quarter CY2011
Sealed proposals are invited for the following:
Lot No. | Item Description | No. of Sets | Quantity (metric tons) | Total Cost | Cost/Sack (Delivered to SSS Warehouse)
1 | Milled Rice (Well-Milled) (50 kg/sack) | 200 | 10,000 | ₱ 5,000,000.00 | Within Metro Manila: ₱ 500.00 / Outside Metro Manila: ₱ 500.00
2 | Milled Rice (Well-Milled) (50 kg/sack) | 100 | 5,000 | ₱ 2,500,000.00 | Within Metro Manila: ₱ 500.00 / Outside Metro Manila: ₱ 500.00
3 | Milled Rice (Well-Milled) (50 kg/sack) | 100 | 5,000 | ₱ 2,500,000.00 | Within Metro Manila: ₱ 500.00 / Outside Metro Manila: ₱ 500.00
4 | Milled Rice (Well-Milled) (50 kg/sack) | 100 | 5,000 | ₱ 2,500,000.00 | Within Metro Manila: ₱ 500.00 / Outside Metro Manila: ₱ 500.00
Lot No. | Amount of Bid Bond (Guarantee)
1 | ₱ 100,000.00
2 | ₱ 50,000.00
3 | ₱ 50,000.00
4 | ₱ 50,000.00
merlin
JOB VACANCY
Position : Health Programme Coordinator (1 position)
Base : Manila with frequent travel to Abuja/Nigeria
Duration : 6 months
Key responsibilities:
Overall coordination of health activities of Merlin's programmes in the Philippines, providing technical support to management and ensuring that projects are implemented as per plans.
Support proposal development and negotiation (grant management, design, proposal writing) in line with Merlin's strategy, in the Philippines and in the region.
Represent Merlin on health issues in national authorities, international donors, partners, international organisations and other NGOs in national and provincial levels.
Support the country team in the fulfilment of their duties according to programme design, in particular providing supervision, direction and mentoring to national/international/visiting programme duties to ensure internationally sound practices.
Support Merlin's advocacy for the completion of an essential package of health services available to all citizens, including the public health insurance (PHIC).
Be liaison/focal point with local authorities and stakeholders, coordinate meetings to public health sectors at MD, DOH and WHO.
Support in the collection of regular M&E activities to monitor project implementation and provide regular feedback and recommendations reports to country team (under HQ).
Key Requirements:
Medical doctor professionals with Masters or PhD, or Public Health or other relevant field and with at least 5 years relevant experience in humanitarian/development health sector.
Proven ability to can guarantee management support to ensure effective running of the programmes, staff management and quality of programmes.
Strong experience in HIV and AIDS among PLE, capacity building and community participation.
Strong experience in Malaria and Tuberculosis programmes.
Strong communication skills, with excellent written and spoken English.
Capabilities and willingness to travel frequently to the provinces.
Qualified candidates may submit their application, including a letter of interest and complete curriculum vitae, via e-mail to recruitment@merlin.philippines.org before 10 March 2011. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted. Applications will be short listed on a regular basis and we may refer the candidates for a closing date. Merlin and Gentlemen Post are gentlemen groups are encouraged to apply.
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A Wholly Owned Corporation with a Quasi-Judicial Power
INVITATION TO BID FOR Supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of One (1) 40 Slot Machine Online System with Ticketing System – Rollout to Tutuban (1 Site)
ITB No. 02-06-2010
Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Wholly Owned Corporation with a Quasi-Judicial Power
INVITATION TO BID FOR Supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of One (1) 40 Slot Machine Online System with Ticketing System – Rollout to Tutuban (1 Site)
ITB No. 02-07-2011
QUEZON I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Quezon, Pilipinas 4326
Tel. No. (042) 8-8-8888 Fax No. (042) 8-1-123
INVITATION TO BID
The Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Quezon I) is now inviting sealed Bids from interested Bidders for the supply and delivery of 3,000 pcs. of electricity kilowatt hour meters to be used by meter reading, service-hooping, and maintenance. Funding will be sourced from the coop's internally generated Reinvestment Fund. The total ABC is Php Four Million Five Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Pesos (Php 4,553,900) only.
Any figure more than the ABC shall automatically be rejected.
Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures in accordance with the criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Act. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to determine its passing or responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall only be awarded to the lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
Interested Bidders may purchase bidding documents from February 14 to 25, 2011 at the cashier of the Procurement Unit, Ground Floor, Quezon I Building. A non-refundable fee computed at Php 1,000.00 shall be required to defray printing and other administrative costs. Bidding documents shall be available from February 25, 2011 where technical requirements for the supply will be discussed.
Bidding schedule will be as follows:
Pre-bid conference : February 28, 2011 (8:30 a.m.)
Submission of Sealed Bids : March 10, 2011 (9:00 a.m.)
Opening and Evaluation of Bids : March 10, 2011
All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2% cash/manager's check / Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid. This bid security shall be valid for at least 90 days, starting from the date of bid opening.
The Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the rights to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reasons, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Electric Cooperative.
(Sgd.) MITCHELL C. NATIVILA
BAC Chairman
(Sgd.) HERMES Z. ANGLO
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Department of Education
Region X
DIVISION OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
A. Velez - del Pilar Streets, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION TO BID
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE

1. The Department of Education, through the [illegible] invites Philippine Corporations, Partnerships or Cooperatives to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:
   a. [illegible] desks and chairs for Elementary Schools
   b. [illegible] desks and chairs for Secondary Schools
   c. [illegible] armchairs for Secondary Schools
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."
3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Chairman of the Bids and Awards Committee at the [illegible] Division of Misamis Oriental and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from [illegible] to [illegible].
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting from [illegible] to [illegible] from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of [illegible].
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before [illegible]. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
6. Bid opening shall be at [illegible] in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The [illegible] Division of Misamis Oriental reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any technical defect in any bid submitted, and to accept the bid which, in its judgment, will best serve the interest of the government. It also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract to the lowest bidder without incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).
8. For further information, please refer to the [illegible].

[illegible]
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

Procurement of Service Provider for the Maintenance and Repair of All the Air-Conditioning Units of the Supreme Court for Two Years (June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013)

The Supreme Court intends to apply, through the General Appropriations Act, the sum of **Two Million Two Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Four Hundred Nine Pesos and 00/100 (Php2,296,409.00)** inclusive of Value-Added Tax (VAT), being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), to payments under/pursuant to the **Procurement of Service Provider for the Maintenance and Repair of All the Air-Conditioning Units of the Supreme Court for Two Years (June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013)**.

The Supreme Court now invites Bids from the accredited Contractors under Category "D" and "E" of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Technical Committee Resolution No. 04-2007 for the above Contract.

Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, contracts similar to the Project. The description of an eligible contract is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II, Instructions to Bidders. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Supreme Court BAC-OS Secretariat, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **February 23, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents **in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00)**. It may also be examined free of charge from the websites of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the websites of the Supreme Court, provided that bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Supreme Court will hold the **Pre-Bid Conference on March 1, 2011, Thursday, 9:00 a.m., Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila at 3:00 p.m.**, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 15, 2011**, at 1:30 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall immediately follow at the **Old Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court, Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila** in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.

The Supreme Court BAC-OS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to the:
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS) Secretariat
Office of OCA Thelma C. Bahia
3/F, Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila
Telefax No. 536-0253

THELMA C. BAHIA
Assistant Court Administrator
and Chairperson, BAC-GS

Republic of the Philippines
Philippine Sports Commission
Philippine Sports Commission Complex
New Clark City, Capas, Tarlac

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Sports Commission, through its Bids & Awards Committee, invites interested eligible & accredited contractors and/or providers to apply for eligibility and to bid as follows:

Project Title	ABC	Bid Document Amount	Place of Delivery
Contract for Janitorial Services for PSC Venues (Rfx - Bid)	6,000,000.00	10,000.00	PSAC, 3rd Floor, Dr. Teresa Aboitiz Hall, Meralco Avenue, Philippine Sports Commission, Pasig City

Eligibility and bid documents will be issued starting from February 21 - February 25, 2011 and should be submitted to the Office of the BAC Secretariat located at the 3rd Floor, Administration Building, PSAC, P. Cuenco St. Brgy. Wawa, Manila, Manila during business days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from Prospective Bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI)	February 22 - February 25, 2011
a. Payment and issuance of Bid Documents	February 22 - March 1, 2011
b. Pre-Bid Conference	March 1, 2011 - 10:00 AM
c. Receipt & Opening of Bids	March 14, 2011 - 9:30 AM
d. Post Evaluation - Qualification	March 15, 2011
e. Notice of Award	March 16, 2011
f. Notice to Proceed	March 28, 2011

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare failure of bidding or not to award the contract to the following grounds:

- There is proven bias/evidence of collusion
- There is/are valid reason(s) for declaring failing procedures
- There is/are compelling grounds where the contract will be detrimental to the benefit of the government, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

ATTY. [illegible]
BAC - Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III
DIVISION OF CAGAYAN
Aparri, Cagayan
Telefax No. [illegible]

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Cagayan, San Antonio Tuguegarao City, through its duly authorized and constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested, experienced, reputable and accredited contractors to bid the following projects:

Name of Project	Supply and Delivery of School Furniture CY 2011
Location	Various Schools in the Division of Cagayan
Brief Description	Lot I - Elementary Tables and Chairs with Lot of Teacher's Table and Chair, Lot II - Elementary Tables and Chairs with Lot of Teacher's Table and Chair for Kindergarten, Lot III - Elementary Armchairs with Lot of Teacher's Table and Chair for Secondary (6 Lots of Armchair)
Funding Source	[illegible]
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	[illegible]
Contract Duration	120 days

The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the eligibility Check/Screening as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid, of contractors' solution to eligibility, financial and screening, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract) shall be governed by the pertinent provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Bidding Documents may be purchased from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of [illegible] starting [illegible] to [illegible].

The Bid Security shall be in the form of a Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank, Surety Bond callable on demand, or Cash or Certified Check equivalent to [illegible] of the ABC.

The Bid Opening shall be on [illegible] at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:
[illegible]
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Telefax No. [illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE
Maasin City

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested, experienced, reputable and accredited contractors to apply for eligibility and bid for the following project:

Name of Project	Provincial Farm-to-Market Road
Brief Description	Various Locations
ABC	[illegible]
Delivery period	15 d.d.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. Two (2) Contractor's Performance Evaluation System (CPES) rating of satisfactory. Non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to eligibility, Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract) shall be governed by the pertinent provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 21 - March 10, 2011
2. Pre-bid Conference	February 24, 2011
3. Receipt & opening of bids	March 10, 2011

Bid Documents and the applicable rate for computation of bidders' down payment of a non-refundable amount of [illegible] to the Provincial Government Cashier.

The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte reserves the reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to the bidder without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Signed by:

ATTY. FERNANDO C. MORALDE
BAC Chairperson

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the Way,
the Truth
and the Life.

DTR

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OBITUARIES

Death Notice

Jaime P. Lucas

Former Provincial Auditor (1974-1986 & 1991-1998) passed away on February 20, 2011 at the age of 87.

The wake is held at his home in Brgy. Bantuas, Bansud, Oriental Mindoro before the interment services on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

His family would like to request the press readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Predeceased by his wife, Lina, his second son, Jose and loved one, Fe. He is survived by his son Jr. and wife Jenny, daughters Lucy and wife Jocelyn, Jaime and wife Jessie, Jeanette and husband Jerry, Jocelyn and husband Ricky, Jennifer and husband Jeffrey, Jessica and husband Jeffrey, Jeanne and husband Jeffrey, Jeanne and husband Jeffrey, Jeanne

BUSINESS

AgriNurture to put up chain of Tully's Coffee shops in PH

By Ben T. Dizhonkee

LISTED AGRIPUTURE Inc. is opening a chain of Tully's Coffee shops in the Philippines as part of its farm-to-plate business model.

Tully's Coffee is owned by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc., a leader in specialty coffee and coffee makers, which has led the growth in the emerging and fast-growing single-serve coffee market in the United States.

There are speculations in the US market that coffee retailing giant Starbucks Coffee Co. may acquire or partner with Green Mountain to access the single-serve coffee market. However, Starbucks has not confirmed such reports and has announced in a statement posted on its website that it was expanding its single-serve business through a strategy with Coutour Products, the licensing provider of its name and for service to hotels in the United States.

ANI president and CEO Ivan L. Tin said in a phone interview that the company was already awaiting for prospective store locations.

CEO Kenneth S. Tan earlier said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that ANI's board of directors approved the proposed to enter into a master license agreement with Tully's Coffee International Pte Ltd., a Singaporean corporation.

The Singaporean firm is the franchising subsidiary of Seattle-based Tully's Coffee.

Tully's Coffee is a popular brand even in Asia, said Tin.

He said the opening of Tully's Coffee shops in the Philippines would help boost the Philippine coffee industry.

"We can sell to them our coffee. Of course there may be varieties that we have to import but we will always push for as much local production possible," Tin said.

Tin said it was possible that the first Tully's Coffee shop in the Philippines would open by June.

"We are now looking for possible locations. We are organizing the supply chain," he said.

The franchise project will be funded by private equity.

"We will tap private equity as needed," Tin said, declining to disclose further details.

ANI has ventured into the restaurant-industry before, opening The Orchidarium Restaurant in Rizal Park last year.

PSE index seen hitting new high

By Doris C. Dumlao

THOUGH SHE THINKS its growth may slow in the year, a stable domestic economy and good corporate earnings could propel the Philippine Stock Exchange index to a new high of 5,000 in the next 12 months, global financial services group Macquarie said.

In its equities research report dated Feb. 16, Macquarie said banks and property sectors would likely outperform given an ongoing asset reflation story and the emerging credit cycle.

"Moreover, these sectors trade well below fair value, and we believe they are likely to have the most upgrades compared with other sectors," according to the report.

Its top picks are Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Banco de Oro Unibank, Ayala Land Inc., Robinsons Land Corp. and SM Prime Holdings Inc. Combined, it said, these "preferred" stocks could provide investors with a potential return of 40 percent in the next 12 months, Macquarie said in the report.

The Macquarie group projected that the Philippines could grow its gross domestic product (GDP) by 5.3 percent this year, following the 7.3-percent expansion last year, on the back of rising investments, driven by flows of remittances from Filipinos abroad and the growing business-process outsourcing industry.

Investments will be driven by the initial tranche of the government's public-private partnership (PPP) projects, it said.

Remittances were projected to grow by 8 percent to $20.5 billion while BPO revenues is seen expanding by 20 percent to $12 billion.

In the near term, the research said the stock market would likely consolidate given its conviction that that the rising prices of global commodities could result in higher inflation in 2011, pushing domestic interest rates higher.

Macquarie, however, thinks policymakers have more room to maintain price stability and cushion the economy from external shocks.

At present, the research indicated that the market was factoring in low earnings expectations but the conventional view might be too conservative. Macquarie's and consensus earnings growth forecasts for 2011 range from 8 to 10 percent.

"In our view, there is an upside in this outlook. We believe analysts and companies are too conservative in their forecasts and guidance, given the prevailing economic shout rising inflation that may dampen domestic demand growth. However, in our view, these concerns are unfounded and analysts are likely to start to intensify their earnings upgrades as we get closer to first quarter 2011 results," according to the research report.

Macquarie sees local corporate earnings growing by at least 10 percent this year, following the growth spurt of 48 percent in 2010. It added that corporate balance sheets were healthy. It expects an average return on equity of 17.5 percent.

A projected 7 percent appreciation of the peso against the US dollar to 41 by the end of the year, Macquarie said, should provide additional gains to foreign investors who reinvest at the current market level.

"In addition, we believe the government is on the right track to creating a more conducive business environment that should provide a positive momentum on a multi-year basis," it said.

In the meantime, Macquarie said that a reasonably benign inflation outlook should enable the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to remain fairly accommodative and leave policy rates unchanged until the second half of the year. "But we do remain wary of the risk of an overshoot that could force a more restrictive monetary tightening."

Macquarie believes the Philippines' fundamentals have not changed significantly enough since November 2010 to deserve the recent foreign outflows.

"The overall economy remains strong, driven by domestic consumption, are think inflation will remain benign at around 4 percent, while our peso to US dollar and economic forecasts remain steady," it said.

It projected that the government's fiscal deficit would likely narrow from 3.6 percent to 3.2 percent this year, with most of the gap pre-funded by the $1.5 billion raised by the government from a global peso bond float last month.

The external account was described as healthy, with gross international reserves at around $80 billion, due to the strong inflow from Filipino workers abroad. The current surplus was at $13 billion or 7 percent of GDP.

Foreign and domestic debt stocks were deemed manageable at $68 billion and $56 billion, respectively, equivalent to 31 percent and 26 percent of GDP.

BANK of Commerce moves in partnership with Paragon MoneyGram's remitting remittances overseas through Moneygram abroad and Bancnet's 1 Hub switches nationwide. Signing the agreement are (from left) Paragon exec Jacob C. Ocampo, Bancnet executive vice president Jose L. Cuesa, Paragon president Spencer Q. Chua and Bancnet SVP Dan A. Jacinto. Witnessing the event are Bancnet executives (standing, from left) first vice president Jovanie M. Marquez Jr., manager Rhea Ann Cabrido, senior manager Lisa Rose Tagalo, first vice president Alfonso Garcia, senior vice president Phoebe Cabildo and first vice president Hamerlaine Amparo.

Stable economy, healthy corporate earnings cited

Beverly Hills 6750 to open new ₱30-M clinic

By Abigail L. Ho

BEVERLY HILLS 6750 Multi-Specialty Aesthetic Institute has invested P30 million in a new Quezon City clinic that aims to serve clients from the north-east part of Metro Manila.

In a briefing yesterday, Beverly Hills 6750 chief executive Socorro Habas-Lopez said the new 500-square-meter facility, located along Tomas Arenue, was slated to open in mid-March.

Investors to be offered in the new clinic, she said, included a wide range of aesthetic offerings, as well as dental, cosmetic surgery, dermatology, cosmetic gynecology, weight management, hair transplant and body scrubs.

The Tilling branch will only be the company's second branch for entering branch is located on the 24th floor of the 6750 Ayala Building in Makati City.

"The same doctors and dermatologists that we have in Makati will be there in Tilling. We've been looking for the past few months to open for the opening of the new branch. We'll be bringing the same quality of service we're offering in Makati to Quezon City," she said.

She related that the company was also looking at setting up shop somewhere in southern Metro Manila, likely a little smaller than the Tilling branch, within the year.

Beverly Hills 6750 general manager Imelda Mazindogue said the company had also been offered to put up a clinic somewhere in Cebu.

"But we don't think it's time yet. Most people in Cebu would rather go to Manila for their aesthetic services much like the Manila clients offered us to locate there. We're still considering," he said.

He related that the medical tourism industry had a huge potential, but the country could better take advantage of it if the government would create more awareness for it.

"Right now, we don't have a bureau-level, unified initiative from the government. We need that for us to have a bigger share of the global market," he said. "There are efforts from the [Department of Tourism], but these are sporadic and hit-or-miss."

Although bullish about the company's own prospects, Beverly Hills 6750 managing director Eduardo Isaac urged the government to take a more proactive stance in establishing a vibrant-level Medical Tourism Council.

The group, he said, would determine the problems surrounding the industry and identify solutions to these.

"The government really has to play a major role here. Medical tourism is affected by the negative perception of the Philippines. An Al Jazeera survey showed that the Philippines is negatively perceived by people in the rims, the worst in Asia," he said.

"We appeal to the government to help us. They should consider forming a Cabinet-level Medical Tourism Council. If we want to be a player in this market, we should step up," he added.

To show how big the potential of medical tourism is, he cited India's potential $1 billion in revenue by 2012 and Thailand's more than $1 billion in earnings from last year.

He said the Philippines had the potential as a medical tourism hub, as even more, from the medical tourists to country, given the proper support.

Smart launches new services

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DOMESTIC MOBILE network Smart Communications Inc. has launched a new suite of services that plays on the synergies with the company's affiliates to help corporations make their operations more efficient.

In a disclosure on Monday, the company described the new "smart-plus" services that take advantage of Smart's nationwide wireless network to enhance the products offered by its sister firms in the power distribution and toll road operations industries, among others.

Among the first wave of services introduced were the Smart Metering and Toll-up line.

"With the introduction of the Smart Enterprise brand, we are reaffirming our commitment to shift from a more traditional product-centric telecom provider role, hopefully, a customer-focused information and communications technology solutions partner to all of our enterprise relationships," said Eric Alferez, head of the Smart Enterprise group.

The new Smart Money wallet on digital and equipped with windows that measure data through wireless internet services, was developed in conjunction with Smart sister firm Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

"Moving its branches are savings on the risks and costs involved in deploying human agents to read power meters, perform maintenance and disconnect and activate power," Smart said.

The new Smart Money will allow Meralco to take more accurate readings of a company's power consumption, which means changes will be more transparent.

The company's Tollway Duo service, meanwhile, was designed for companies that need fleets of vehicles for their operations.

With this, enterprises will be able to monitor their vehicles and manage their fleet more efficiently. They will also be allowed to send toll payments for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) seamlessly, instead of making piecemeal payments before each toll.

NLEx is operated by Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), a subsidiary of the infrastructure giant Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

"Trucks and other vehicles pass through what Smart Enterprise envisions to become barrier less toll gates, making for much faster and smoother rides," Alferez said.

Smart chief executive officer Orlando Vea said the introduction of the new services were part of efforts to find new revenue streams for the telecom firm as the market for traditional services such as calling and sending text messages nears maturity.

"The latest chapter in the mobile phone's evolution is its realization as a viable business platform ... herein lies the new frontier of synergies and innovations," Vea said.

Globe broadband most reliable in PH, study shows

THE MOBILE broadband internet services offered by Ayala-led Globe Telecom Inc. have been deemed as the most reliable in the country, a recent study by Nielsen Philippines showed.

Quoting results of the study, Globe said on Monday that its mobile internet brand, Globe Tattoo, showed outstanding performance in a network test conducted in the last quarter of 2010 compared with all other prepaid mobile broadband products in the market.

The network test study, which was commissioned by Globe, was performed in "stand" actual broadband usage scenarios in the National Capital Region Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The network test conducted in November compared the performances of Globe Tattoo with similar products offered by rival brands' Smart Bro and Sun Broadband.

There were five categories considered, namely browsing (page loading success rate and page loading time), download (success rate, time and speed), upload (success rate, time and speed), ping (success rate and round trip time) and video streaming (speed, video quality and video quality).

The study showed Globe Tattoo posted "better results" than competition, specifically on connection requiring higher bandwidth such as downloading and video streaming. The advantage was most prominent on connections made from 12 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.

The study covered 500 households in randomly selected urban areas in Metro Manila, North Central Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The test was done inside the home to simulate network performance when accessing the Internet from home. Trained field interviewers conducted the network test in the morning and evening according to the respondents' set.

"The results of the research confirm that our products are performing better in line with our vision to provide our customers with superior experience," Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu said in a statement.

"Our continuous investments in our broadband and mobile networks allow us to bring more innovative and high performing products to our subscribers. Aside from improving our infrastructure, we will continue to explore new technologies that will make our broadband offers superior in the market," he said.

Last year, Globe Broadband closed the year with broadband service revenues of P6.7 billion, up 71 percent year-on-year.

Paolo G. Montecillo

LIFESTYLE Wellness
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

This photog is an 'easy rider' for a cause

By Joy Rojas
Lifestyle Reporter

THAT ABOUT going the extra mile. Since taking off at Alabang 1 in Real Park, Sirena Boulevard, Manila, last Jan. 23, veteran photojournalist Mike Alquinto has combined his two greatest passions—riding motorcycles and taking pictures—in a 100-day cross-country coverage he's planned for years.

Spanning an estimated 13,000 km and 70 key cities and provinces (including hotspots like Jolo and Basilan and hard-to-travel places like the Babuyan Islands), "Ride for Health 2011" has Alquinto zeroing his camera on the state of women and children's health care in many of the Philippines' poorest and unreachable communities. The photos, which he will exhibit and sell upon his return in April, will help raise funds for his chosen charity, the United Nations Children's Fund.

Alquinto, who knows firsthand the hardships of long-distance motorcycling and out-of-town coverages (with rigors of weather and road conditions), was first moved to shoot his maiden subject matter in a coverage in Aparri for the Sunday Inquirer Magazine in 1994.

There, he met Renato Calatrava, a one-year-old with a breathing tube attached to his nose. "Ulirap siya ibatangan," recalls Alquinto, still visibly affected by the memory of the toddler with the lung disorder. "Pinuntahan namin siya, binigyan ng biscuit, he had a hard time chewing and the color of his skin would change. They said he would not live past the age of seven. I don't know how he is now but I never forgot his face."

Veteran photojournalist Mike Alquinto is on a 100-day journey on motorcycle to call attention to the issues of women and children's health

Poignant portraits

Other poignant portraits across the country moved encouraging him to go for his chosen project. There was the single mother of seven Jevies Machate whose youngest child was born not-heart an anus; a woman in Bukidnon who was too embarrassed to share a ride with him during a downpour because her jeans were too modest; children from a remote school in Sulu and Sabah.

"In my 20 years covering the hardships of our society, nothing has changed," he says. "With my photographs, I hope to show people what other Filipinos are going through."

A CHILD plays on her father's lap. Her father attended a family health seminar in a remote village in Bindoy, Negros Oriental, August 2010.

PORTRAIT of a mother and child in Tuipon, Maguindanao, in August 2010.

NEW and motorcycle Mike Alquinto will cover an estimated 13,000 km on his Yamaha

Alquinto is lugging his camera and a few personal belongings on a Yamaha YBR 125-G on and off-road bike and says he mentioned via Internet through a weatherproof Spot GPS trackers.

Otherwise, this self-described motorcycle purist appears perfectly content to be roaming solo and with little means. Though he plotted a pre-determined route, he plans to stop and stay in certain places for as long as he pleases, and will coordinate with local government units, health centers, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police wherever the need arises.

"There's always a risk, no matter where you are," says Alquinto, who has no backup crew. "But if you keep thinking about the risks, you won't be able to function."

Indeed, the plan is take off on a motorbike and spend months shooting pictures around the country has become more than just a good cocktail.

"I feel it's my calling, like I was destined to do this," says the 46-year-old photographer, who didn't let disconcurrent or strained sponsorship get in the way of an "unsupported" he considers part of his life's journey.

"Nothing else matters. The most important thing for me is to finally do it. Magkatotoo ang sa sarili."

Like Ride for Health 2011 on Facebook.

Ride for Health 2011 is sponsored by Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc., YRG Multifusion Philippines, Triumph IT Marketing Philippines, Columbia Sportswear Philippines, North American Rescue, and Jollibee Foods Corporation, with the cooperation of The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business Mirror, Motorcycle and Biker@Philippines.

Couples hold hands to the finish line in Cebu fun run

Organizers Yong and Donna Cruz-Larrazabal claim their marriage has improved since she began sharing his passion for the sport

CRUZ, who tripped and injured her ankle at 8 km, continued to run limping and even made it among the Top 10 female runners in the 21-kilometer category with an official race time of 1:58:01

13-KM first place winners Nep and Amalie Jopson

By Anna A. Jambora

CHEERS, hugs, hold hands, and waved in the finish line in the first 200 2 SM Run organized by SM City Cebu with the Run for Sight Foundation Inc. and the Larrazabal Eye Group on Feb. 13.

The event drew the largest turnout of runners in Cebu City so far, close to 4,000 enthusiasts and hobnob athletes alike, and featured unique race categories for the couples' runs: 15 km and 12 km), and regular categories for solo runners (21 km, 21 km). About 60 couples, armed with marriage certificates, joined the couples' run.

"When I organized a race to benefit the foundation February last year, my wife Donna Cruz thought we should also include a couples' race category. I thought, why not? After all, we were already a couple with a passion for running," said ophthalmologist and laser eye surgeon Peter-Louis "Yong" Larrazabal III.

After a successful but modest turnout of running couples last year, there were only around 15 couples who participated, Larrazabal decided to bring it back this year.

"Running has become so popular. I wanted to raise funds for the foundation for a sport I've always loved. If there are couples who can together like we do, it's a nice way to express that love for running and for each other," he said.

108 marathons

Since Cruz's birthday is on Feb. 14, the couple decided to schedule the race close to her birthday.

Larrazabal, who has recently decided to run 100 full marathons in his lifetime instead of his earlier goal of 52, said his marriage to the former teen idol improved since Cruz started running, as well. (He has 58 marathon medals in his collection.)

"When I started running, she couldn't understand why I did it. There was a time when I couldn't run without a cell phone. Carrying a cell phone while running was not easy, but I had to because if I receive calls I have to pick it up," he said, laughing.

Cruz, who was seated next to Larrazabal at the breakfast buffet, blushed and laughed along with him. "Running was taking so much of his time. I couldn't understand why he liked it so much. Each time he joined marathons I'd neither get bored waiting or worry that something bad might happen to him."

"Since she started running, she's no longer moody and short-tempered. We now get to share long conversations on running. In fact, she's the one who can't stop talking about running now!" Larrazabal said, laughing. The twin is guy who feels so strongly about the sport he continued is watching the three-hour movie "Beheaded's Last" while running on a treadmill.

CHARLES and Irene Buenaventura, Cebu

The mood swings, said Cruz, were primarily triggered by constant shots, either to lose or moderate weight. In one point she refused from more than 500 calories a day.

"I was so moody and irritable," she said, like sedan-served good food and the joys of eating only when she started running.

Today, with both couples running regularly and doing long runs, Cruz said she made only one rule in their household: that her doctor husband be home after work for dinner and trips as , or until their three children go to sleep. That means Larrazabal wraps up his training around 11-11:30 in the evening already.

First place couple

Athlete couple Nep and Amalie Jopson, who joined the 11-km couples' leg, bagged first place, finishing the race in 50:37 (35 minutes). Nep, a triathlete and champion of the Cebu Cobra Tri 1 Carrier Invitational, said training with his wife is always good exercise for him.

"I usually pace her during training. Although this is still a competitive race, I enjoy running with my wife," he said.

"She was met in college after a running event. Boy saw Amalie and offered her some water. Since then, the two have shared their passion for sports. They've been been married for nine years.

"She slowed down for me in this race. Trust us, we have our own expectations. We did better in this race than what we thought we would achieve during our training," Amalie said.

She said she was worried about the Ilocanos, who were just behind them. Well, not exactly, because Team Ilocandia ran faster than her husband Nestorio, and she sometimes had to wait for him at a corner before picking up her pace again. This was a couples' race, after all—you and your partner run together, holding hands, so you are one in the finish line.

Third place went to Benedict and Mary Ann Benedicto (1:02:43). "We were training to win, but when I saw the Jopsons' name on the list I knew it was going to be a hard fight. But we had a great time. We've never done anything like this before," Mary Ann said.

The 12-km couples' category winners were Jeane and Anabbel Quijot (32:28.29), Rolrene and Teresita Bellas (33:38.31), and Nez and John Morales (34:29.18). The Bellas, married for 16 years, said they've only been running together for a year and were not expecting to make it to the coveted Top 3 spots.

Margaret Villanea, who joined the solo category of the 12-km leg, even had her grandchildren join the run. "This is a great way to get the family together. And since the grandchildren wanted to join the 3-km, their papa had to train and run with them as well," she said, laughing. Her brother, Wenny, joined the 21-km leg.

Now that the Larrazabals plan to include a 21-km leg for the couples' category. "There has been quite a number of requests to do a half-marathon for couples. With the Sun Fun 15 couples last year to almost 60 couples this year, I think we just might do that," Larrazabal said.

FIRST place, 6-km leg, Jessie and Anabbel Quijot

SM 2 SM saw the largest turnout of runners in Cebu City.

SECOND place, 12-km category, Rolrene and Tessie Bellas

FROM left, Marissa Persias, VP of SM Prime Holdings; Lonely Fe Andrin, second place; Alex Sayaboyan, first place; Dr. Yong Larrazabal of Run for Sight Foundation Inc.

Drug helps women with ovarian cancer live longer

ROCHE ANNOUNCED this week that Avastin, a phase III study evaluating bevacizumab in combination with chemotherapy, followed by continued use of bevacizumab alone until disease progression in women with previously treated (recurrent), platinum-sensitive ovarian cancer, met its primary endpoint.

The study showed that women who received a combination of bevacizumab and chemotherapy, followed by the continued use of bevacizumab alone, lived longer without their disease worsening (progression-free survival or PFS), compared to women who received chemotherapy alone. No new safety findings were observed and adverse events were consistent with those seen in previous pivotal trials of bevacizumab.

"We are very pleased with the results of the Avastin study, as women with ovarian cancer need new treatment options," said Dr. Hal Barron, chief medical officer and head of global product development. "Bevacizumab has now demonstrated a significant improvement in PFS in ovarian cancer in three large phase III studies, and we are looking forward to sharing the data at an upcoming medical meeting."

Previous findings

The results from this trial build on findings from two previous phase III studies in women with newly diagnosed ovarian cancer. Roche has submitted a European Union (EU) marketing authorization application for the use of bevacizumab in the front line setting, and reports a decision from the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) later this year. Genentech plans to submit applications in the US for the use of bevacizumab in ovarian cancer in 2011.

Avastin is a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III study in 484 women with platinum sensitive recurrent ovarian, primary peritoneal or fallopian tube cancer. Women in Avastin had received no more than one treatment regimen prior to enrolment in the trial. The trial was designed to evaluate bevacizumab in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel chemotherapy, followed by bevacizumab as a single agent until disease progression, compared to placebo in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel chemotherapy, followed by placebo alone. The primary endpoint of the study was progression-free survival. The secondary endpoints of the study included overall survival, objective response, duration of response and safety.

Leading cause

Ovarian cancer is the sixth most commonly diagnosed cancer in women and the eighth leading cause of cancer death among women worldwide. Annually, an estimated 220,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer around the world and approximately 140,000 will die from the disease. Surgery to remove as much of the tumor as possible is a mainstay of treatment, but unfortunately, the majority of patients are diagnosed with late stage disease (when the cancer has grown or spread) and require further treatment.

With the initial approval in the US for advanced colorectal cancer in 2004, bevacizumab became the first anti-angiogenic therapy made widely available for the treatment of patients with an advanced cancer.

Today, bevacizumab is continuing to transform cancer care through its proven survival benefit (overall survival and/or progression-free survival) across several types of cancer. Bevacizumab is approved in the US and Europe for the treatment of advanced stages of colorectal cancer, breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer and kidney cancer. Bevacizumab is also available in the US, and over 25 other countries for the treatment of patients with glioblastoma (a type of brain cancer).

Bevacizumab has made anti-angiogenic therapy a fundamental pillar of cancer treatment today, over three million patients worldwide have been treated with bevacizumab so far.

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world's largest biotech company with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS. Roche is also the world leader in in vitro diagnostics and tissue-based cancer diagnostics and a pioneer in diabetes management. In 2010, Roche had core businesses employing 80,000 people and created sales of 47 billion Swiss francs (US$45).

For more information, visit www.roche.com.

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*For groups of at least 10 to attend. 10:30am, Promo is from Jan. 20, 2012 to Feb. 29, 2012. Per BPI SMS Permit # 6302, dated 16 Dec. 2010.
**Excluding beverages at Saffron. Promo is from Jan. 1 to Feb. 29, 2012. Per DTI-Cebu Permit # 010, dated 06 Jan. 2012.
***All F&B outlets. Promo is from Jan. 12 to Feb. 29, 2012. Per DTI-Davao Permit # 004, dated 06 Jan. 2012.

The mystical origins of Philippine psychic surgery

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge, Doc!

Attention: PhilHealth Members

February is National Health Insurance Month, and in this issue of Take Charge, Doc! we bring you the duties and responsibilities that PhilHealth Members need to know.

As a PhilHealth Member, there are certain things you must do to enjoy your benefits in the future.

- Keep a photocopy of all forms your PhilHealth Number, Card or Identification Card.
- Update your Member Data Record (MDR) for any change in personal information such as change in civil status or address (e.g. new document).
- Request for a replacement in case of loss of PhilHealth Number Card or Identification Card.
- Inform the employer promptly about any change in the individual's Paying Members and Overseas Workers Program (the end of the period of employment or benefits.
- For direct contributors/employees, check if your contribution to your employer or PhilHealth on the 3rd week of the month of Employees' Members).
- Ensure that your monthly PhilHealth contributions are properly deducted from your salary and promptly remitted and reported by your employer to PhilHealth.
- Report to PhilHealth or employer any changes in employment status or salary/minimum payments.
- Keep a list of you have sufficient to contribute to receive or maintain PhilHealth benefits anytime.
- Secure an updated list of PhilHealth accredited hospitals from any PhilHealth office wherever you can avail of benefits.
- Be familiar with and completely filled up PhilHealth Claim Form 1 to the highest and ensure that all the information you present in the case form and in all the forms.
- Present that you properly and completely submit all the necessary requirements to the hospital including a copy of your Member Data Record (MDR) to avail of PhilHealth benefits.
- Clarify with provider (hospital/doctor) the charges/fees and inquire about the discount upon settlement of bills and charges.
- Ask for a copy of your Statement of Account (SOA) and/or Official Receipt upon discharge.

- Ensure that your name is on the discharge slip, a copy of PhilHealth claim slips from the time of admission to discharge to avoid overpayment, and settle any unpaid charges. DO NOT sign the Certification in advance.
- Be aware of accreditation and updates on PhilHealth policies and benefits packages.
- Secure receipts or PhilHealth slips from any PhilHealth office or any duly authorized agents.
- Report any irregularities from any PhilHealth office or any duly authorized agents.
- Observe and comply with PhilHealth rules and regulations as there are offenses or its implementing guidelines.
- Report any irregularities from any PhilHealth office or any duly authorized agents.
- Inquire about PhilHealth benefits and entitlements.
- Inquire about PhilHealth benefits and entitlements.
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ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz fest diary: Salsa, samba, blues and beyond

Feb. 4, Venice Piazza, McKinley Hill

The 2011 Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival kicks off with a Latin focus on this open-air venue in Taguig.

First on the bill, the all-native-clad band Colcandia trains heads with a long salsa percussion and dance number before settling down with some rousing melodies for the gathering audience.

Next is Uzamina. Its covers most unusual: are all possess fine jazz chops. Before the aftershaking soloist could run away with the show, the band is joined by front-person Eileen Stott who, sure enough, asks the audience to dance the samba with her.

Sabor Latino, fronted by Joseph Aranza, follows, playing an hour of keyboard-heavy charismatic Latin pop. Next, Edsa 1920's version of standards like "El Tiempo Pasa Muy Rapido" kicks jazz with the Philippines' Spanish heritage. Finally, the 11-piece Bicolo de Samba de Manila, brings every with percussive sounds that echo around the plaza.

Elvira Martin, Contributor

Feb. 11, Glorietta

Lucky afternoon commuters, trudging through Glorietta mall on Ayala on their way to the MRT, come across a fascinating exhibition of local jazz talent.

The show's highlight, the AMP Big band, demonstrates that nothing beats the interplay of orchestral music. Pursuing conductor Mel Villena could have put on a show by himself, but current mage belongs to requisite finger-loosing solos by veteran saxophonist Nestor Jumagas and saxophonists Ben Tolentino and Michael Lorenzana.

The big band's soft side is illustrated by an intimate performance of Vernon Duke's "April in Paris" and the chilling "Delirio," composed by the band's trombone player, Bennie Manguerra.

Elvira Martin

ELSON Skott and Gaurana

Feb. 13, Salon de Ning

Exotic smiling: bronzed gamenls hung from the ceiling, octopuses alongside mermen dress "It's like being in 1930s Shanghai," says jazz vocalist Sesalia Paz.

We are in Salon de Ning, the new resort lounge bar at the Peninsula Manila, where this week's action takes place. Onstage, Singapore-based Pinay singer Rosanna Guevara leads an eclectic repertoire with husband Johnny Guevara on bass, Bobbie Cal. logo of Manic Amnesia Rafter Quirino on drums, and instrumental fellow math-teacher James Atkinson on the baby-grand.

The music, spanning 1960s pop, '70s rock, and mainstream jazz, sounds laid-back but is actually packed with in-house passages and improvisation. "Happy Together," "Spooky" and a chilled Holiday number blend seamlessly, no matter how disparate their original versions.

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CONRADO de Quiros, Senalle Pua, Brother Wayne, at right, bassist Herman Farrer

Jazz fest diary: Salsa …

From page D1

Truly, jazz allows a good band to play anything and make it sound new. Rosanna is not only a good singer-bandleader; she also knows how to treat her audience. We feel warm and happy souls her cheerful chatter. When it's time to sing, she becomes a fairy godmother, transporting us to a world where only classic matters.

The next set, Nyko Maca, relies heavily on her "superband" Caribou, including blues guitarist Rako Legaspi and three members of Radioactive Sago Project: Quazo Francis de Veyra, saxophonist Rony Modesto and trumpeter Mowie Antonio. It's hard to pin down the band's style, but the experimental beat is so good, Nyko doesn't even have to sing. No kidding. With some swivelling and swaying of hips (eyes closed), she gets away with anything—and renders a seductive "Mandanda Mi Expo." Pen Sebio Concepcion

Feb. 16, Salon de Ning

We're back for "Blues Night." An SRO crowd anticipates intensely. Radio jazz legend Butchie Wayne turns up, as does former columnist Conrado de Quiros.

The festivities kick off with the third with B.B. King's "Everyday I Have the Blues." Fiery guitarist Joselove Beltran gets the vocal tone right as well, and occasionally reminds us of Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Cooky Chua is next, with keyboardist Butch Analog, guitarist Quarki Vergara and harpist Bonnie Dudilla. No bass and drums? No problem. Cooky's voice is so enticing and deep with conviction—she could've sung a cappella! Which doesn't mean the band is lousy, to boot, the unplugged sound is a nice breather.

Moreover, the songs, starting from Elvis Presley's "Love Me" to Billie Holiday's "Fine and Mellow" to Cream's "Sunshine of Your Love," possess that essence, the bluesy soul just ripe for innovation, and breathlessly.

Rock 'n' roll, a branch of the blues, follows shortly with Wally Gonzalez. "This ghost will explode," Brother Peewee says, moments before the band goes onstage.

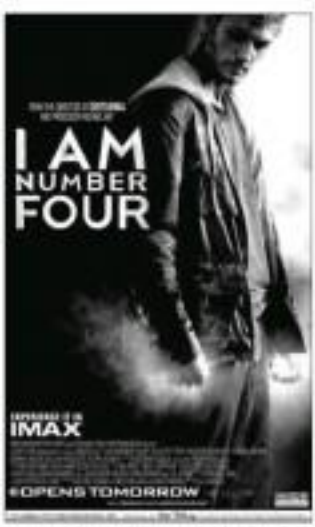
True enough. Sid-Ly's heavy blues-funk-boogie rock repertoire that includes Eric Clapton and Rolling Stones classics blows everyone away. Herman Farrer on bass is a right-hand sound refurbished.

All that blues prove too much to handle, and second-hand cigarette smoke forces us to walk away—not soon, Anabelle Conception

The festival runs till Feb. 26. Log on to pijazzfest.com for the rest of the schedule.

ROSANNA Garcia on vocals and husband Johnny on bass

WALLY Gonzalez



Faith Cuneta in Tagaytay

SINGER Faith Cuneta is back in the Cavite Filipino in Tagaytay tonight for a performance show. This is only her second solo show in the area, but she has performed back-to-back here with foreign artists, among them David Pomeranz, The Carpenters and John Rod Co. by 0488527552.

Jazz fest

At Solaire de Manila, Jazmin group Gerry Mayuga and Chocolate tonight, on Feb. 25, Ryo Fuji, Jazzed Fil-Am, Jon Hellegren, winner of the 2008 Thelonious Monk Int'l Saxophone Competition.

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GREENBELT 2
1: JUST GO WITH IT
2: THE MECHANIC
3: VANISHING ON 7TH STREET
4: UNKNOWN
5: 127 HOURS

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2: JUST GO WITH IT
3: SANGLED DIS THE MECHANIC
4: VANISHING ON 7TH STREET
5: 127 HOURS

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1: JUST GO WITH IT
2: HEREAFTER
3: UNKNOWN
4: THE MECHANIC

MARQUEE
1: JUST GO WITH IT
2: UNKNOWN
3: MY VALENTINE GIRLS
4: HEREAFTER

MARKET! MARKET!
1: UNKNOWN
3: VANISHING ON 7TH STREET
4: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6: MY VALENTINE GIRLS
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: MY VALENTINE GIRLS
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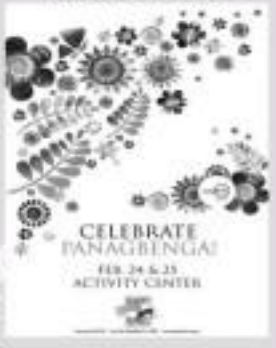
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA
MARQUEE
CINEMAS

MALL SPECIAL



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HOROSCOPE

TODAY BORN TODAY You're idealistic, compassionate souls who make caring and nurturing your central priorities in life. You are naturally generous. You try to do the right thing. You believe in a series of daily and ordinary acts of responsibility. This is an excellent year for you to focus on improving your service and detail.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) In the month ahead, you'll be involved in social activities or in doing things behind the scenes. Afterwards, be aware of you. You might be a secret admirer.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect the unexpected to occur unbidden, especially one that unleashes the quiet character of events during the next six weeks. You're eager to express your energy and focus.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll be unusually ambitious in the month ahead. You would be wise to let others find out you know you're accomplishing and stay tuned to developments!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Unfortunately, you're trying to do too much at once. Your challenge is to get better organized. It's time for capitalizing on the ways you've learned to be more productive.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Organize and plan ahead properly. Later, avoid overdoing your own goods with others who are jealous. Afterwards, be aware of you. You might be a secret admirer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You would be an extra positive force for partners and close friends during the next six weeks. Initiate face-to-face discussions over topics that matter. Be aware of you. You might be a secret admirer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have a unique desire now to get better organized. In order to capitalize on this urge, you must prioritize what needs to be a question.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You should expect the unexpected. Be extraordinarily alert to changing circumstances and be attentive to your own intuition. Romance, love affairs and sports will be blessed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Expect increased activity and chaos on the home front during the next six weeks. What does this be for renovations, or perhaps a moving guests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You will be very determined to get your communications with others during the next six weeks. This is great news if you will, realize results are easy to see to a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your work flow seems within a big priority for the next six weeks. You'll work hard to earn more money and pursue lucrative assistant. **PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)** Your relationships must be one of more appreciative and independent in the next month. Make sure there's room in your days when it will rely with April. So, go go!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			2	9	5			
		4				6		
	7	3				2	1	
2			1		4			5
7								1
6			9		2			7
	8	2				7	3	
		9				5		
			8	6	3			

Difficulty Level ★★

Answers to some days puzzle

8	1	5	3	7	6	4	2	9
3	6	4	2	9	5	8	1	7
7	9	2	8	1	4	3	6	5
2	5	8	1	4	9	7	3	6
1	4	3	6	5	7	9	8	2
6	7	9	4	3	2	1	5	8
5	3	1	7	2	8	6	9	4
4	8	6	9	6	1	2	7	3
9	2	7	5	8	3	5	4	1

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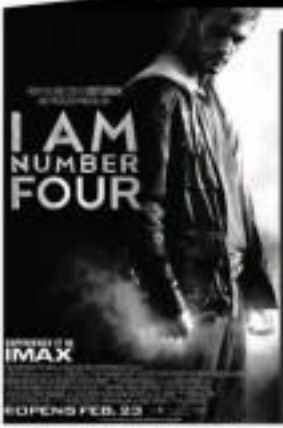

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Joel Calabanza

Feb. 21, 2pm
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MALL TOURS

PUPIL

Feb. 21, 2pm
Robinsons Galleria
Pampanga

Missing from the entourage

I RECENTLY the beautiful wedding invitation of **John Dalmula** and **Priscil**. In Montalban—a booklet containing breathtaking pics of the couple.

It will be a two-day celebration at Thunderbird Poro Point Resort in La Union. On Friding Feb. 25, there will be a golf tournament for the men and a spa party for the ladies at 11 a.m. The wedding ceremony is fixated in at 6 p.m. and the reception dinner party at 7 p.m.

The wedding day by the beach is on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 3:30 p.m. The dress code for men is light formal members' jacket or suit, and for the ladies, long printed dress.

It would be quite a sight to see Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion as red sponsors at the nuptials. Will it be a no-show for Best Man **Willie Revillame** because of his rift with John, which erupted when the latter accepted MBC-TDN's offer to be one of the hosts of "Pinoy Idol/Pinoy Idol"? The other Best Man is Richard Gutierrez. Conspicuously missing from the wedding entourage is **Jucy Marquez**.

John, Sonia and Joel's friendship dates back to their "Pil dikan Lolak" days. The last time I spoke to Joey about rumors that he and John have a romance in the air was after their meeting at The Douglas Quijano, posed sassy for said there's no romance.

JOHN Dalmula and Priscilla Meirelles

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

But why is Joey not part of John's entourage? Is he even invited? Looks like there are many exciting subplots to unfold at the wedding.

In that as it may, all eyes will be on the fab newlyweds. Let the marriage begin. The instigators can wait.

Football fest

It was such a delight to interview **Phil Younghusband** after his practice with the Azkals at the football field of Corinthian Gardens. "It's good to see you again," said Phil. I was pleasantly surprised that he remembered attending my birthday party three years ago.

What's the official score between him and Angel Locsin? "Nothing is happening yet," he said, chuckling. "It's not true that we were target shooting. Pia Wurtzbach does, too, because she had work. But I won't stop trying because I really like Angel."

After going three for a try via "Celebrity Duets," he finally found his niche in football. Is he still willing to do movies or TV shows? "I'm open to anything but football is my priority."

Kudos to the Phil women teams, Phil!

Happy couple

I bumped into **Rachelle Ann Go**, Camille Prats and the Prats clan at Singapore's Changi airport en route to Manila. Rachelle's bf, John Prats, stayed with them since her in-laws are allowed to be absent from his new reception show at ABS-CBN.

It's only gray to them how close Mrs. Rachelle's inclination it to John's family. So they treat them they are getting hitched anytime soon? "Seventeen more days," said Camille. "Marami pa sila gusto ma-achieve sa kanilang careers but they are very supportive of each other."

What does she like in them? "She's so simple, down-to-earth at walang pretension," she said. "She considers also my various titles a big nuisance at dahil sa matindo. They give me positive vibes to each other. Happy couple sila."

Spoiler: like a true future in-law Sitti and Camille already have a Skitel Pact!

Muse Shalani

Shalani Soledad is the muse in the ace studded "Cosmologia 2011" hair and makeup expert competition organized by Sassy Sarmenta's Philippine International Cosmetologist association. It will be held today and tomorrow at the SM Mall of Asia from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Time for some "beauty talk."

E-mail: sotoringbalodsong@philstar.com

24 hot artists in 1 hot album

Rain
"Back to the Rain" (Ariola Sounds)/ *Various Artists*

We have seen the future, and it has had English grammar. Also, it has curly hair. It looks hot comes to two CDs, one audio and the other video.

No music to listen to, K-Pop princess Rain's "Back to the Rain" is this package—three R&B ballads that showcase his throaty Michael Bolton-inflected high tenor, and two danceable tax appeal in dance tracks. The first of which is 4-year standard hip-hop stuff but molded in several layers of machine-generated rhythms and noises.

Here-at last, all five are destructive of that musical motif we have all come to wrong, also on "Adam soul," incandescing and melodramatic melodic progressions best popularized by pentecostal R'&'Bop.

But what Rain fully shows of musically he makes up for in video and packaging—so much to look at. In total, the CD bundle features 18 closeups of Rain in various moods from pensive to very pensive.

The nine photos of him also does describe the 40 minutes "Rain Double CD set from concrete only five songs, but damn if the guy is six-pack doesn't give 50 Cents a run for his money! Manny Espinosa, *contributor*

2011 Grammy Nominees

"2011 Grammy Nominees"
Six less than 24 artists from various labels contributed to this collection, but a quick count of the contributors for the five top Grammy categories (record of the year, album of the year, song of the year, best R&B Pop Vocal Performance and best Duo Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal), 10 artists are the ones that Rain likes deserves this year's spotlight, being in several collaborations, on top of his active [illegible]

If you had only this compilation for a basis, it would be easy to gripe, dismiss "Love the Way You Lie" by Eminem, feat. Rihanna and "Forget You" by Cee Lo Green are the strongest nominees for Record of the Year, for those of us not yet ruined on hi-25 country music ("Need You Now" by Lady Antebellum, woo.). The Sixbobs, who won Album of the Year, is not represented here. Song of the Year? We'd have gone for "Forget You" or, again, "Love the Way You Lie." Our vote for Best Male Pop Vocalist goes to Adam Lambert for "Whataya Want From Me?" Eminem's "Not Afraid" for Best Rap Performance, we'd have picked "Take Me Away" by Jewel (Live.)." Hey, we got this last one right. In any case, it's a really nice CD to keep.

Rain
"Back to the Rain" (Ariola Sounds)/ *Various Artists*

REVIEW

FOR MEN ONLY:
LOSE YOUR BEER BELLY, *BILBIL*, LOVE HANDLES *QUICK AND EASY*

Having a beer belly only proves you're not in great shape. Your body is unhealthy and that makes you less attractive. Love handles and *bilbil* don't make things any less of a worry. These can lead to abdominal obesity if you don't take preventive measures. Don't wait for diabetes, high blood pressure, erectile dysfunction, heart disease or stroke to happen to you. At Mario Francis FOR MEN, you lose the fat and gain a healthier body - quickly, effortlessly and painlessly.

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Q: What causes beer belly, love handles and bilbil?
A: Despite the name, beer isn't the main culprit behind a beer belly. Men typically gain weight in the belly and waist areas first. Lack of physical activity, fatty foods, slow metabolism and unhealthy lifestyle all contribute to having a beer belly. Love handles and *bilbil* are early signs that fat is beginning to accumulate in your abdomen and back areas. This is your cue to take fast action.

Q: What fat-busting solution do you offer?
A: CoolSculpting, FOR MEN's latest US-FDA approved treatment, eliminates fat cells in your targeted areas and reshapes your body at the same time. Clinical studies have shown a 22.4% fat reduction in the problem area after a single session. You can do this during your lunch breaks and still have time to get a quick bite after.

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Q: So what results can I expect from this treatment?
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Grammy CD No. 5 overall

THE TOP SELLING albums in the country for the week Feb. 7-13, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales report:

Overall

1) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 2) Taylor Swift, "Speak Now Deluxe Edition," MCA Music; 3) Bruno Mars, "Doo Wops & Hooligans," Warner Music; 4) Willie Revillame, "Willing Willie," Viva Records; 5) Various Artists, "Grammy Nominees 2011," Sony Music; 6) Jewel Subdivino, "Faithfully," Star Records; 7) Various Artists, "My Popular Demand 3," Universal Records; 8) Katy Perry, "Teenage Dream," Polyfloat Records; 9) Jewel Subdivino, "I'd Do Anything For Love," Star Records; 10) Taylor Swift, "Taylor Swift," MCA Music

OPM

1) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 2) Willie Revillame, "Willing Willie," Viva Records; 3) Jewel Subdivino "Faithfully," Star Records; 4) Various Artists, "Sa Popular Demand 3," Universal Records; 5) Jewel Subdivino, "I'd Do Anything For Love," Star Records; 6) Pupol, "Limitless Of The Infinity Pool," Sony Music 7) Gloc-9 "Salampati," Sony Music; 8) Lea Salonga, "Your Songs," Sony Music; 9) Joel Mondelo, "The Classics Album," Universal Records; 10) Noel Cabangon, "Byahe," Universal Records

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